

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 30th Year

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IT'S OFFICIALLY OFFICIAL

New Section Manager assumes position July 1



Dotting the "i"s and crossing the "t"s, outgoing Wisconsin Section Manager Roy Pedersen, K9FHI, left, officially hands the ARRL Wisconsin Section reins to incoming SM Don Michalski, W9IXG. Don's the new man July 1.

Photo courtesy Don Michalski/W9IXG

ARISS readies ham antennas for space

There's been recent forward progress in activities to establish a permanent Amateur Radio presence in space aboard the International Space Station. Training models -- or "mockups" -- have been prepared of the antennas that eventually will be deployed for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, and pattern testing is under way on some antenna systems. Four flight antenna systems are being developed to support Amateur Radio operation from the ISS on 20, 15, 10, and 2 meters, plus 70 cm, L-band and S-band.

"The ARISS international team has made tremendous progress on the design, development and flight qualification of an antenna system," ARISS Administrative Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said recently.

The antenna system being developed for ISS includes a dualband VHF/UHF antenna, a multiband microwave antenna, and a diplexer mounted on a plate that attaches to an extra vehicular activity handrail clamping device. These four antenna systems will attach to four bulkhead Service Module feedthroughs, made available to the ARISS international team through the efforts of Sergej Sambourov, RV3DR. Russian space officials said re-

cently that Russia will not pull out of its ISS commitments because of that country's opposition to the NATO campaign in Yugoslavia.

The VHF/UHF and HF antennas were developed by the ARISS team members in the US. They use a flexible measuring tape covered with yellow Kapton as the driven element. A large circular piece of Delrin provides a solid mounting interface and houses the connector and attachment hardware. The design is very robust and has no sharp edges. The microwave antenna system, developed by the Italian ARISS team, will support L-band and S-band operation.

The microwave antenna design chosen by the ARISS team is a flat spiral antenna. This dual-use antenna -- intended for ham operations as well as NASA/Energia use -- also enables the ISS crew to transmit and receive local video during space walks. A diplexer, designed and developed by the Italian team, provides an efficient split in radio signals between the lower frequency (HF/VHF/UHF) antenna and the microwave antenna. The antennas, diplexer, EVA "clothespin-type" handrail clamp,

Please turn to page 4

HAMS AT THE EDGE OF SPACE

NSS-25 to be launched July 17th

Joe Mayenschein, WB9SBD

Near Space Sciences will launch their 25th mission to the "Edge of Space" this July 17th. NSS will be flying again one of their live video payloads. They are also testing a new ultra miniature "TNC" on this flight, as well as a much lighter and smaller GPS unit. Neither of these units has been flight tested, so we are hoping for the best. But, because of the risk of losing telemetry from the payload, we are asking for anyone that wants to help in the mission, in tracking, and/or in one of the chase and recovery teams. This is the ultimate hidden transmitter hunt, and all are invited.

Payload Details

As with most of our payloads, this one will also be multi functional. Live video will be on board, to transmit the view from probably near 100,000 feet up.

The GPS unit will be set up in the standard APRS format. It will transmit to the ground the current latitude, longitude, and altitude of the balloon. With final technical details worked out, The chase teams will be able to digipeat their current position through the balloon as well. Anyone else within range of the balloon system should also be able to digipeat through it.

Also on board will be the ever popular cross band repeater for all to enjoy. It will utilize a 2-meter uplink frequency, and a 70-cm downlink. This will also be used during the flight to keep in touch with the chase teams.

Technical Details

We ask of all participating in this mission to be as courteous as possible. The frequencies will be extremely busy and doing multi tasking.

The main workhorse of this flight will be the Wyman Research Amateur Television Transmitter. Operating on a frequency of 439.25 Mhz, (also can be seen on any cable-ready TV or VCR tuned to cable channel 60). The Wyman Transmitter will be transmitting the standard AM television signal, about three watts output, to an Olde Antenna Labs Mini Wheel, so the downlink signal will be HORIZONTALLY polarized on the 439.25MHz frequency. One hint: if your location happens to place the payload say, above 45 degrees in your sky, try playing with different polarizations. Directly under the payload the signal is somewhat circularly polarized, so some playing with your polarity may really make a difference in your received signal strength.

The Wyman transmitter has the unique capability to FM modulate the AM video carrier. The Wyman transmitter is the only one we know of that has this capability. So, with no extra power being used, we now also have a 3-watt NBFM transmitter. This is standard 5 KHz deviation and sounds just as good and clean as any real UHF FM

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Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebnetter@palacenet.net

Swapfests and Other Social Events

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1999. South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, American Legion Park, Shepard Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI. Contact: South Milwaukee ARC, P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. (414) 762-3235.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1999. Eau Claire ARC Hamfest and Computer Expo., Eau Claire County Exposition Center, Eau Claire, WI. Contact: Jim Staatz, KG9MV, (715) 838-9108. <http://www.ecarc.org>

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1999. PHD ARA Hamfest, Kansas City, MO. Contact: (816) 436-0069. e-mail wa0crl@worldnet.att.net

SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1999. Kankakee Area Radio Society Hamfest, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL. Contact: Billie Kerozac, KF9IF, (815) 939-7548. <http://www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/hanger/5711>

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 1999. Fox River Radio League Hamfest, Sugar Grove, IL. Contact: <http://www.frrk.org/hamfest.html>

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 1999. Racine, WI. The Racine Megacycle Club, Amateur Radio & Computer Show. Contact: e-mail: w9udu@wi.net voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC web page: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 1999. HAMNIC The Marshfield Area ARS will be holding their annual potluck picnic and swapfest, Wildwood Park, Marshfield, WI. Gather

around 11:00 a.m. Contact: Guy A. Boucher, KF9XX, 107 West Third St., Marshfield, WI 54449, (715) 348-4323. Packet: KF9XX @ W9HWE5 AT WIUSA.NA e-mail guyboucher@ttnet.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1999. Circus City Swapfest, Sauk County Fairgrounds, highway 33, east side of Baraboo, WI. 7:00 a.m. until noon. Contact: Steve Schulze, N9UDQ, (608) 356-2313/356-4777 or Bill Klinkner, N9KXX, (608) 643-6908/643-6453 e-mail inpp://www.thelox.com/~sschulze/hamfest.html

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 1999. Woodstock Hamfest, McHenry County Fairgrounds, Woodstock, IL. Contact: (708) 944-0500. e-mail TCRG@Quality-Enterprises.com

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18-19, 1999. Peoria Superfest, Exposition Gardens, Peoria, IL. Contact: (309) 692-FEST(3378) e-mail www.w9uvt.org

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25-26, 1999. RADIO EXPO 99, Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, IL. Contact: (708) 457-0966. <http://www.chicagomfclub.org>

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1999. Racine Megacycle Club Amateur Radio & Computer Auction, Knights of Columbus Hall, 13249 Washington Ave., Racine, WI. www2.wi.net/~hamradio/auction.html

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1999. HAMFEST Minnesota & Computer Expo, St. Paul, MN. contact: (612) 535-0637. <http://www.hamfestmn.org>

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2000. 28th Midwinter Swapfest, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. Contact: WARAC Swapfest, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201, or call Phil, W9NAW, (414) 425-3649.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2000. South Bend Hamfest, South Bend, IN. Contact: Michiana Valley Hamfest Association, 21970 Kern Road, South Bend 46614

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2000. Ozaukee Radio Club 22nd Annual Radio and Computer Swapfest, Circle-B Recreation Center, Highways 60 and County F located 20 miles north of Milwaukee, west of Grafton. Contact: Joe Holly, ORC Swapfest Chairman, 1702 Holly Lane, Grafton, WI 53024. (414) 377-2137 or Skip Douglas (414) 284-3271. Note: Area code will change to 262 after September 1999.

See also the back page and watch for flyer ads for additional information on many of these events.

Let us know of your dates as soon as you know them. We will list them and perhaps help avoid conflicts with other events.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.

CLUB MEETINGS

Due to space limitations, we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please see the September 1998 meetings column for the latest complete listing. The following changes have been reported to BSSS since that listing.

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club

2nd Tuesday - 7:30 PM Eau Claire, Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. Wide area coverage repeater KB9RRA 146.910 Mhz. For more info, Jim Staatz, KG9MV 715-838-9108 kg9mv@ccol.net

Waupaca Amateur Radio Club

"CQ First Tue." - A social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon at the King's Table in King, WI, on Highway QQ just south of highways 10 and 54 on the west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11:00 - 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted.

"CQ Third Fri." - A social gathering and Dutch treat dinner, semi-formal, "OM & NYL" at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check Waupaca 147.390 nets at 8:00 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for that month's meeting place.

QCWA - Wisconsin Chapter #55

Contact: Erwin Froehlich, W9RZW, Treasurer, W3449 Badger Road, Pine River, WI 54965. For information about meeting dates or joining QCWA Chapter #55. The Wisconsin Chapter holds Spring and Fall dinner meetings on the first Saturday of June and October.

RADIO AMATEURS OF WISCONSIN - R.A.W. OSHKOSH, WI

R.A.W. is a family oriented club, in which most of its activities revolve around family doings and outings. Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of each month at various locations. If you are a Ham or are interested in Ham radio, contact Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662 or Jeff Oppermann N9OSB, (920) 233-7961. We are always looking for good people to join us.

Periodically we update the listing of club meeting locations and time. We will be doing so shortly. Please check the the latest listing and let us know if there are any corrections to be made. If you do not have a listing, or are not sure, please send the information to K9EN at the address on page 2, or e-mail to kebnetter@palacenet.net.

Badger State Smoke Signals

*Amateur Radio
Education and Information*

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EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Dave Knaus, WA9POV; Don Evenson, KBJYX; Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ.

Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$13.95
2 years	(24 issues - save \$1.95)	\$25.95
3 years	(36 issues - save \$3.90)	\$37.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than

the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter. Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

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Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

July 03, 1999	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
July 03, 1999	Racine, WI
July 03, 1999	St. Paul, MN
July 08, 1999	Apple Valley, MN
July 10, 1999	Blaine, MN
July 10, 1999	Eau Claire, WI
July 10, 1999	Madison, WI
July 13, 1999	Eden Prairie, MN
July 17, 1999	Cottage Grove, MN
July 17, 1999	Loves Park, IL
July 17, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
July 24, 1999	Bloomington, MN
July 27, 1999	Sheboygan, WI
July 31, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
July 31, 1999	Tomahawk, WI
August 07, 1999	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
August 07, 1999	Racine, WI
August 07, 1999	St. Paul, MN
August 12, 1999	Apple Valley, MN
August 14, 1999	Blaine, MN
August 14, 1999	Madison, WI
August 17, 1999	Eden Prairie, MN
August 21, 1999	Cottage Grove, MN
August 21, 1999	Loves Park, IL
August 21, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
August 21, 1999	Oshkosh, WI (R.A.W.)
August 28, 1999	Bloomington, MN
August 28, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
August 28, 1999	Tomahawk, WI
September 11, 1999	Sheboygan, WI
September 11, 1999	Onalaska, WI
October 16, 1999	Oshkosh, WI (R.A.W.)
November 06, 1999	Menomonie, WI
November 06, 1999	Onalaska, WI
November 16, 1999	Sheboygan, WI
December 18, 1999	Oshkosh, WI (R.A.W.)
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Racine, WI
(except January, July & August)	
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Madison, WI
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 3rd Tue.	Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat.	Bloomington, MN
Monthly, Last Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(except December)	
Monthly, Last Sat.	Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)	
Quarterly	Eau Claire, WI
(Second Saturday Jan., Apr., & Oct.)	
plus annual summer hamfest.)	

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions. If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the Swapfest column on page 2.

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Some examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL. Send a 32¢ SASE if you request one from the ARRL. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.45 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE or CSCE to the VEC. You must also have two good copies of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 610 and most VEC want a copy for their records. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a

code test only.

Additional information is given below.

For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.html>

By checking this page, a person can find out registered VE sessions anywhere in US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC, it is a master database. (Thanks to KB9EQI for information.)

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB (MRAC/VEC)

LAST SATURDAY - MILWAUKEE, WI

LAST SATURDAY DATES: (except December): 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI. Note: For Additional Information: Call (414) 797-MRAC (Answering Machine), or (414) 797-6722.

Bring along your ORIGINAL license, CSCE (if any) and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such as a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$6.40 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

Badger Examiners group tests at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 60th and Good Hope, every third Saturday MORNING. Exam times are 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the old Sterman Printing shop, just 300 feet west of the AES store. Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided. Fee is \$6.35, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbano, WI9M at (414) 355-0237.

MADISON, WI

VE exams are held in Madison every second Saturday morning of the month at 8 a.m. They are held at the operations building of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District at 1610 Moorland Rd. To get there take the Beltline (Hwy 12 & 18) to South Towne Drive. Go south 8/10 mile till South Towne Drive makes a bend and becomes Moorland Rd. and enter at gate.

You should bring a picture ID, your original license and a copy of your license. For exams beyond the novice tests, bring a check for \$6.35, made out to the ARRL/VEC. If the special 610 form with the medical exemption is required, contact me beforehand to obtain one. No appointments are necessary to take exams. For further questions, please leave a message on the mailbox or phone me at (608) 832-6631.

Mark Jenks, N29B

STEVENS POINT, WI

ARRL Exams in Stevens Point. Time: 0930. Place: A107 Science Building, on campus at UWSP (corner of Fourth and Reserve streets) For more information contact Joe Larson, N9JW, at 715-344-1182 evenings or email to joel8@bigfoot.com.

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.

Monthly exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted.

Talk in on 147.87/27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (414) 886-8551.

TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month, Jan. thru Oct.

Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testings starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz, repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633.

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC

MANITOWOC, WI (HAMFEST)

KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST) Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All test sessions in Appleton are held at James Madison Jr. High, 2020 S. Carpenter Street. Testing starting at 8 a.m. For Appleton information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. For Manitowoc or Kaukauna information, contact Larry Siebers, KD9IA (920) 759-1167.

OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walk-ins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.35. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

OSHKOSH, WI (R.A.W.) - (W5YI/VEC)

August 21, 1999, October 16, 1999, December 18, 1999. Sponsored by Radio Amateurs of Wisconsin (R.A.W.) Testing sessions at UW Oshkosh, College of Nursing Building, 845 Algoma Blvd., Room 211, Oshkosh, WI. Park free in lot 29 on side of building or in lot 25 behind the building. Registration start at 9 a.m. \$6.35 per test. Bring 2 forms of id etc. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact: Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662 or Mike O'Conner, K9II (920) 231-7093.

EAU CLAIRE, WI

The Eau Claire ARC will hold exam sessions on the second Saturday in the months of January, April, and October, as well as on the date of their annual hamfest during the summer. For more info: Steve Blum KA9OMY 715-839-6509

SHEBOYGAN, WI

All sessions will be held in the Red Cross building, 2023 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI, in the SCARC meeting room on the lower level of the building. This area is not readily handicapped accessible. In the event there is a candidate who would be affected by this situation, we will accommodate that person in one of the Red Cross conference rooms on the main level of the building which IS handicapped accessible. Pre-registration is necessary (we don't want get caught sort!) Contact: Art Pahr, K9XJ, N8209 Willow Road, Plymouth, WI 53073-2929. (920) 876-2370. e-mail <k9xj@excel.net>

ONALASKA, WI (ARRL/VEC)

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club will hold test sessions at the Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Avenue South, registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Please bring two forms of identification and two copies of all original documents, CSCEs, license, etc. For more information contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 526 13th Ave. N., Onalaska, WI 54650. (608) 783-0723.

MEDFORD, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Taylor County Area AREC. Registration starts 8:30 a.m., testing starts 9:00 a.m. Location: The conference room in the lower level of the Sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Take Ogden St. west off of Hwy. 13 to the courthouse. Park in the lots on the east or south sides of the courthouse or on the street. PLEASE use the entrance on the south side of the courthouse and watch of the signs. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, 2373 Willow Ave., Medford, WI 54451. (715) 748-4054

PEWAUKEE, WI

The location is a little more handicap accessible, room S112 in the back of the science building by the handicap parking entrance. WCTC is on Hwy JJ off Hwy 16 from the East I-94 and Hwy T from West I-94 just north of GE Medical Systems. Tests start at 9:00 AM and registration ends at 10:00 AM. Contact: Al Johnson, AA7CS, (414) 568-0836; Roger Bradley, AA9OJ, (414) 691-3089 or SEWFARS Repeater club c/c Jam Lazachek, KF9GG (414) 650-0724.

HUDSON, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Sponsor: St. Croix Valley AR Testing Col. Time: Call for time and walk-in info, Contact: Gregory Miller (715) 386-9857. Location: St. Croix County Emergency, Government Center by jail, Carmichael Rd. lower level, Hudson, WI 54016. (Information tnx ARRL Web site)

FRIENDSHIP, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Sponsor: Adams County ARC. Location: Adams-Columbia electric Cooperative (Community Room), 410 E. Lake St., Friendship, WI 53934. Contact: Karl Simonson, KB9EQI, (608) 565-6533, kb9eqi@iname.com

CEDARBURG, WI - ORCHAMFEST

EAU CLAIRE, WI - ECARCHAMFEST

GREEN BAY, WI - ARES HAMFEST

HAYWARD, WI - HAYWARD HAMFEST

KAUKAUNA, WI - SWAPFEST

MANITOWOC, WI, LAKESHORE HAMFEST

OAK CREEK, WI - SMARCHAMFEST

RACINE, WI - RACINE HAMFEST

RHINELANDER, WI - NWARC SWAPFEST

ROCKFORD, IL - RARCHAMFEST

ROTHSCHILD, WI - WVRA HAMFEST

SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI - SMARCHAMFEST

(continued on page 15)

Near Space Sciences balloon flight July 17

Continued from front page

transmitter. This audio link will be extremely busy, so please always listen before you transmit. Coming down on the 439.25 MHz FM frequency will be the GPS telemetry, the digipeater, telemetry from the onboard 35mm film camera, and the downlink from the crossband audio voice repeater. Courtesy will be a must!

We will also, of course, have the 2-meter transmitter running the digital signals as well. All of the 2 meter frequencies will be announced on the local repeaters and through the payload itself. You will need to be able to hear it before you can work it.

Schedules of Events

Launch date, July 17, 1999 (rain date the 18th). Time of liftoff will be at approximately at 7:00 A.M. CDT. Mission control will set up communications centers about an hour before the launch. More details below as to where to go to get up to date information. Local communications will be on the Madison 147.15 MHz repeater. If we have a problem using that repeater, please check the Baraboo 146.88 machine. Once the payload has attained enough altitude, we will use the on board repeaters for mainly reception reports and chase team communications. Please keep all the non mission telemetry type of questions on the ground-based repeaters to lessen the load on the info of the scientific nature coming through the payload.

If all goes as hoped, we will also be simulcasting the view from the payload LIVE on the Web! We will be using a "Chat" room generously provided for our use by Darrell Mobley from Rocketry On Line. On the left side

of your screen will be a Text type of chat room, and in the other frame on the right side will be images from the payload. To see the live video, you will need to get and install the latest "Real Player G2" from real audio. The "Chat room" works very well. On some browsers it sometimes has a bit of trouble starting up the first screen. After logging in, and all you see is a blank screen, click on the "occupants" button, and that usually clears up the trouble.

The address for downloading "Real Player" is <http://www.real.com>. They try to sell you the latest version, but hunt through the site, and you will find the free version. It's in there; you just have to hunt for it.

The address to log into the chat room and see the images is:

<http://www.rocketryonline.com/conferencing/conference.cgi>

Fill in the blanks. The only one that is mandatory is the name you're going to use. The rest are optional. Use the pull down menu to find the NSS room, click on it, and select "Frames" A lot of people don't like frames, but you must be in the frames mode to see the images.

Go to

<http://www.mwt.net/~mayen1/nss25.html>

for the most up-to-date info.

We are also looking for someone that is east of the land-based repeaters we mentioned above who can act as a relay station for us. By the nature of these flights sometimes the payload can travel far enough east of Madison that the chase teams can no longer maintain

communications through those repeaters, and must go to a repeater that is more east and we then lose contact with them. We need someone that can hit the repeaters in the Madison area, as well as ones to the east. Any helpers?

As the mission comes closer, we hope to make a few announcements on the night time info nets around the Madison area. Keep an ear open for them.

Hope to hear you all on the balloon in July!

Possible August flight

We may also be having a flight at the annual Northwest Suburban Astronomers yearly star gazing party up at Wildcat Mountain State park. The exact date and payload is yet to be determined, but it will be early to mid August. Keep in touch for more details. □

State PRB-1 bills make progress

The Louisiana state Senate has passed HB 2088, which limits the control of local jurisdictions to regulate Amateur Radio antennas by incorporating the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 into state law. The bill now is on its way to Gov Mike Foster for his signature.

Louisiana Section Manager Lionel "Al" Oubre, K5DPG, expressed his thanks and appreciation to Dan Whelchel, K5IQZ, who spearheaded the Louisiana PRB-1 effort, and to Rep Victor Stelly, who authored the bill. Oubre also thanked the Louisiana hams who contacted state lawmakers urging support of the bill.

Meanwhile, Oregon's PRB-1 bill, Senate Bill 879, has jumped another hurdle in its trip through that state's Legislature. The House Rules Committee approved and sent SB 879 to the House floor with a "Do Pass" recommendation on a unanimous vote. Amateur Radio operators are being encouraged to contact their local representative for their support of the bill. Bob Shelby, W7FPY, ARRL Assistant SM Marshall Johnson, KK7CW, and Sen Lee Beyer appeared on behalf of the bill at the committee hearing and work session.

—thanks to Lionel "Al" Oubre, K5DPG and Marshall Johnson, KK7CW/The ARRL Letter

A request to have PRB-1 codified as Wisconsin law has been made of Rep. Joan Wade Spillner. No action has yet been taken due to budget bill priorities. However, unless bills are drafted in both chambers and introduced very soon, any effort made is likely doomed to fail because of the sheer number of bills in both chambers. It is suggested that, if you favor codifying PRB-1 as state law, you contact your state representative and senator now.

— Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, Editor

Ham antennas being readied for international space station

Continued from front page

and the various coaxial cable connections will be integrated in the US on an antenna system plate developed by the US team, Bauer said.

The four antenna systems being developed for flight will be installed around the perimeter of the Russian developed Service Module, which will serve as an orbiting outpost for the ISS crew. A "high fidelity" EVA mockup developed by the AMSAT-NA/Goddard Amateur Radio Club team in Washington, DC, has been delivered to Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL, in Houston for evaluation by the NASA Johnson Space Center EVA engineers.

The microwave antenna system is currently undergoing a series of antenna pattern measurements at the NASAGoddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Former US astronaut and AMSAT member Ron Parise, WA4SIR, is leading a team of hams from Goddard's Microwave Branch in the test activity. Once antenna testing is completed, the Italian team, led by Fabrizio Bernadini, I0QIT, will move ahead with the final flight antenna fabrication. All Amateur Radio initial station hardware is slated for launch on the STS-101 mission.

The ARRL Letter/ARRL

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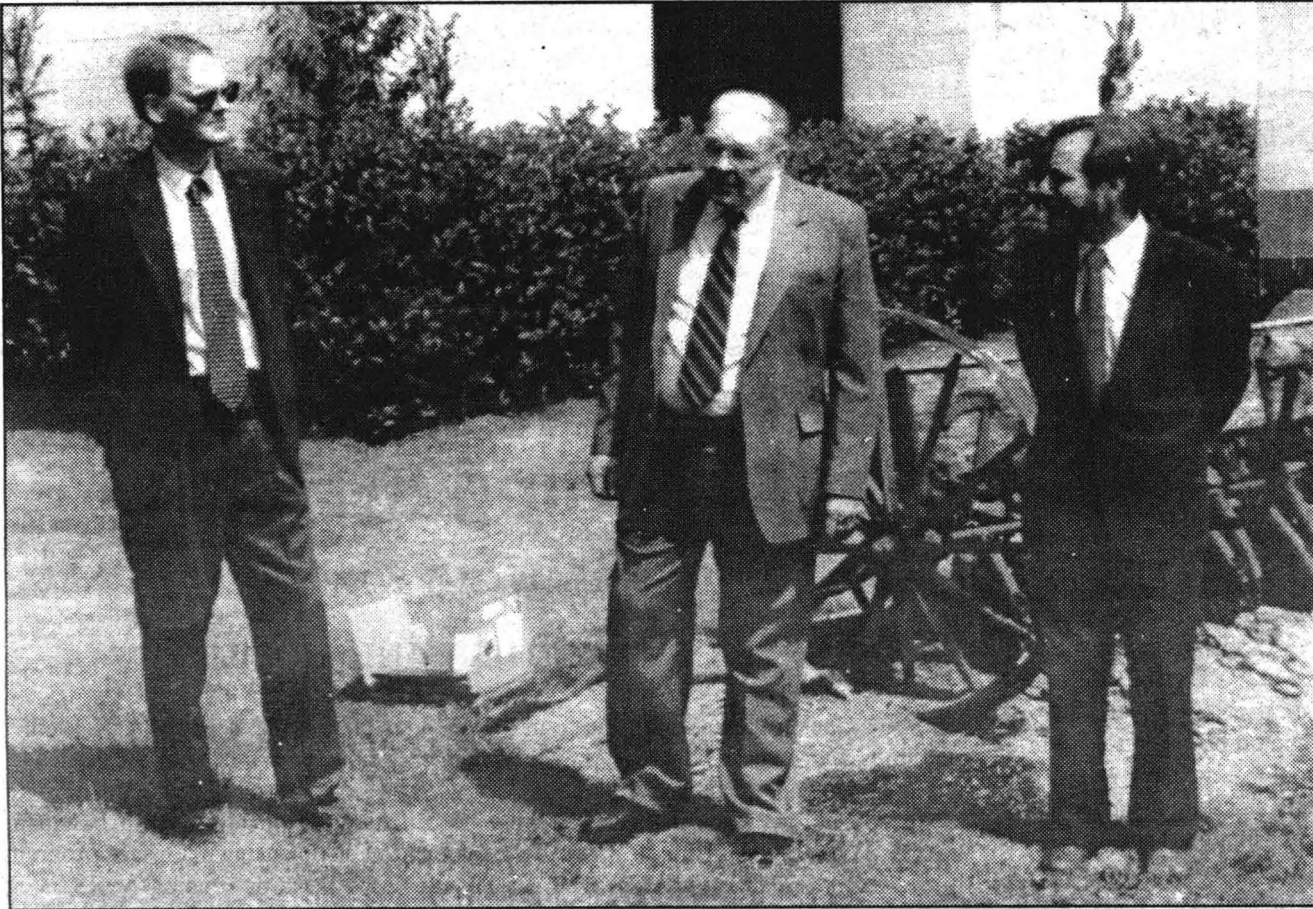
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National Weather Service honors Sherm Carr, W9NGT



In a ceremony at the National Weather Service's facility at Sullivan, Wisconsin, Sherm Carr, W9NGT, received a plaque - a national award, honoring him for his concept and planning that led to what is now the nationwide weather spotter/ham radio program we call "Skywarn". At left is meteorologist Rusty Kapela, center is Sherm, W9NGT, and at right is Ken Rizzo, NOAA Meteorologist in Charge for Wisconsin. Kapela is Warning Coordination Meteorologist for NWS' Sullivan facility.

rologist Rusty Kapela, center is Sherm, W9NGT, and at right is Ken Rizzo, NOAA Meteorologist in Charge for Wisconsin. Kapela is Warning Coordination Meteorologist for NWS' Sullivan facility.

Photo by Tom Kucharski/KA9EWJ

On Tuesday, June 15th, Sherman Carr, W9NGT, one of Wisconsin's pioneering Amateur Radio operators, was presented the National Weather Service's Central Region "Special Service Award" for 30+ years of outstanding contributions in creation of the Ham radio Skywarn program in Wisconsin. His efforts and dedication have helped the National Weather Service

(NWS) protect the public from severe weather for many years. The award was presented at the Milwaukee/Sullivan NWS Forecast Office near Sullivan, WI.

In 1968, Sherm Carr, W9NGT, who was State Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) at the time, and Dave Theophilus, W9KWQ, with approval of R.W. Harms, Meteorologist-In-Charge, National Weather Service, Milwaukee, began and effort to organize amateur radio operators into a radio network that would support the newly implemented "Skywarn" program. Dave, a staff meteorologist at the Milwaukee office, along with Bill Harms, and guidance from the Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, MO developed the reporting criteria, and Sherm and Dave worked out the on-air procedures.

One of the intents of the Skywarn program was to have Hams relay real-time severe weather reports back to the NWS office for use in the warning decision process.

A test of the Amateur Radio Skywarn program took place during the summer of 1968. There wasn't much of a communications network, very few VHF repeaters, very little equipment at the Milwaukee office, and the Amateur Radio community had to be notified before the program started. The NWS Regional Office in Kansas City gave its approval of a revised Amateur Radio Skywarn program during the winter of 1968-69, after the "bugs" had been worked out of the overall plan.

By the spring of 1969, the Wisconsin procedures,

Silent Key

Victor H. Vater, W9JHP, Madison, age 85, died unexpectedly May 18, 1999.

Vic was a radio amateur for more than 65 years. He had worked for the Wisconsin State Patrol as a dispatcher, and later for Wisconsin Emergency Government. He retired in 1979.

He also was a licensed pilot, and was an officer of the Civil Air Patrol Squadron in Reedsburg.

"Fearless Flood Forecasts"

"Over the years when you'd put out a call for people to respond, they'd just pile in a car and ask 'where do you want us to go?' and 'What do you want us to do?'"

Sherm Carr, in a story in the *West Bend News*. He was commenting on a very large flood watch operation on the Wisconsin HF nets during a severe flood season. Stations statewide spent over one full month sending daily river level reports to five addressees. After a day or two of concern, Sherm said, after listening to the operation, "I shouldn't have worried. What a well-oiled machine this is!" That is from an old "WNA Bulletin".

(I was privileged to have been one of those reporting stations, then as K9PKQ. - Editor.)

format, and criteria were finalized, and the ARES-coordinated severe weather operation became official. Usually only one or two hams would report to the NWS office during severe weather watch/warning episodes to gather severe weather reports. The first few years were tough ones. There were few VHF noise-free repeaters: low band operation, plagued by storm static, sometimes needed relays several states away! However, with the proliferation of VHF repeaters and the spin-up of NWS radar offices, things started to look better in the 1970's. Many of the earlier warnings issued by the NWS meteorologists were "triggered" by the Amateur Radio severe weather reports.

As things improved over the years it quickly became apparent that ham severe weather reports either triggered severe thunderstorm or tornado warnings and verified many other warnings. Simply said, the NWS's mission of issuing warnings to protect life and property would have been more difficult if it were not for the contribution of the Amateur Radio operators.

Rusty Kapela, National Weather Service

Editor's note: I worked many projects with Sherm over 35-plus years, and I'd be remiss if I didn't tell you that the NWS' assessment of Sherm's work is correct; in fact, it may be understated. He did lead, but where he went, we willingly followed. It was truly a team. We worked as one.

Sherm's award is reproduced on page 9. □

W9NGT: "It wasn't just Sherm."

In accepting the award from the National Weather Service, Sherm, W9NGT, said:

"We who are appointed to leadership roles may come up with great plans and procedures, but they are just so many words on paper unless there are many, many dedicated amateurs willing to give their time and effort to carry out these plans and procedures.

"Over the years, amateurs have never failed to respond, no matter what the situation. I realize that this award cannot be divided into hundreds of parts, one for each, so I am deeply honored to accept this award, not only for myself, but on behalf of all of the hundreds of dedicated amateurs who, with their concerted efforts, actually helped to make this award possible."

Attention all Clubs

Club meeting information needed

We will print the entire list of club meeting schedules in our next (August) issue.

All Wisconsin area clubs are welcome to send meeting and other information for this listing; a club does not have to be a participating club for this list.

Send to Ken Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

Emails go to kebner@palacenet.net.

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JULY 1999

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(414) 284-9346
WB9RQR @ N9PBY.EN63BI.WI.USA.NA
SKAPLAN @ MCW.EDU



No. 68: Cookies

Computer world cookies are not nearly as nice as the kinds that come out of an oven. I admit, the impetus for this article stemmed from my personal frustration with them. Let's examine what they are, what they can do for you, and what they might do that you might not want done. Finally, I will show you how to prevent them, should you wish to. Remember, YOU are the human commander of your computer, and can make decisions on what comes in from the outside world as well as what goes out.

A COOKIE is a small file (but not necessarily a tiny one) that is sent to your web browser (Netscape, Internet Explorer) by a web server when you are on the web. The file is written to your hard drive by your browser, and occupies space just like any other file. It stays on your hard drive even after you disconnect from the web, and it may persist for weeks, months or years.

SIZE AND NUMBER: According to a preliminary specification paper by Netscape, there are limitations on the number and size of cookies that you should be asked to store at one time. This limit is 300 total cookies, each of which should be 4,000 bytes or smaller (totaling 1,200,000 bytes). They also specify that no single site should send you more than 20 cookies. Very nice, indeed, but this is only a set of guidelines and is not coded into Netscape's browser. Further, I do not know if Microsoft (Internet Explorer) has or plans to have any such limitations. To the best of my knowledge, there are currently no limits, and no site you visit is bound by any rules. Therefore, if you visit ten sites today while browsing the web, and each sends you ten 2,000-byte cookies, you have acquired 200,000 bytes of data. Five days of browsing under the same conditions bring that to a megabyte. Fifty days yields 50 Mb, and so on.

EXPIRATION: If your browser is set to accept all cookies, you will never see a request on your screen. But if it is set to "Warn me before accepting cookies," a box will pop up on your screen whenever a site wants to write one to your hard drive. A date will typically be displayed, which is the date the cookie expires. However, that does not mean that the file goes "poof" on that date. Indeed, there is no mechanism for erasing that cookie automatically. The only way that it is normally erased is if you log into that site again, and the site sends you another cookie with the same name containing an expiration date in the past. It can then delete its "old" cookie. Do many sites do this? I don't know, but I doubt it. They are not really interested in "housekeeping" chores on your computer. Norton Utilities' CLEANSWEEP will clean up cookie files for you, both expired and unexpired. A better ploy is to keep them from being written to your disk in the first place.

GOOD STUFF: Cookies do have positive attributes. They can store your preferences so that when log on to CheapParts.com, their server knows you are usually interested in hard drives so it takes you right to that section. When you log into your start page at SurfTheWeb.com, their server knows you don't like international news but really do like sports; it then fills the page with the latest breaking sports news.

NOT SO GOOD STUFF: Web site designers can use cookies to track what you do on their site. It can give them information on those customers who jump from one place to another, then "bail out" of the site because nothing more interests them. It can also give them more accurate information on who visits them. For example, cookies can help differentiate between 10 different people who visit the site and a single person who punches the reload button ten times. Some people think this is an invasion of privacy.

BAD STUFF: In Internet Explorer 3.0, the first part of the cookie is your Windows 95 log in name. Early implementations of Java made it possible to get your email address and just about any other data that was on your hard drive. It is claimed that most of these security leaks have now been plugged. Do you believe that? I do, but I also believe that wicked people can get around the security plugs if they really want to.

There is a great analogy which I read at <http://www.junkbusters.com> (recommended!) which goes like this. You are watching TV, surfing the channels with your remote control. Suppose that your remote control informed each TV station the second you switched to it, and that they could gather and sell this information to their advertisers to help them decide what junk mail to send you. Further, pushing that Channel X button could tell an insurance company to phone you while you are watching a program on financial planning. Or, a less blatant example: suppose that switching to a channel during a bass fishing program lets a fishing lure company know, and they send you a catalog. Are these services to you, to help you target those things you want to purchase? Or is it an invasion of privacy, par excellence? The call is yours.

I think cookies are a dangerous pain, and have shut them off in my Netscape 4.5 browser. Here is how you can, too. In Netscape, click on Edit, then Preferences, then Advanced. You will see four buttons at the bottom of the screen: Accept all cookies, Accept only cookies that get sent back to the originating server, Disable cookies, and Warn me before accepting a cookie. If you select either of the first two AND the Warn me button, you can accept or not accept a cookie each time someone wants to send one. Try it. If you are like me, after awhile it will become annoying to have to hit the Cancel (do not accept) button each time a cookie is offered. My Disable Cookies button is selected. In IE, the path to the buttons is Edit, Preferences, Cookies or View, Internet

Options, Advanced, Security, Cookies. A reported alternate path is to right click the IE Shortcut, then (left) click Properties, Advanced, and Cookies.

Be advised that some sites require you to accept cookies! In that case, you will not be able to navigate or download from that site, depending upon the site restrictions. At Microsoft, for example, you can navigate around the site, but you cannot download any upgrades without accepting a cookie. Be prepared to turn cookie acceptance back on if you really want that file. But also be advised that in doing so, you are opening your computer to potential information gathering.

Cookies are like computer viruses. They are files written to your computer's hard drive without your informed consent (at least without your informed consent before you read this article). The only way they differ from viruses is that they do not reproduce themselves (yet). Be informed, keep learning, and happy computing! □

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The Automatic Packet Reporting System

By Tom Weeden, WJ9H

PART 5 - WEATHER AND MOBILES

Two of the most exciting applications of APRS are the automatic reporting of weather conditions and vehicle positions. In this month's edition we'll touch on the basics of setting up each application.

To review, APRS can display weather information graphically over a basemap. Weather data can be transmitted manually by any packet station using a terminal program (if the proper format is known!), or it can be entered by a station running APRS using the W (weather) E (enter) commands and following the prompts. The method we will discuss today involves attaching a home weather station to another COM port on the computer running APRS to automate the data transmission.

Several different brands of weather stations can be used: the Peet Brothers' Ultimeter series, Davis, Radio Shack, and Heath. WJ9H runs the Ultimeter-II, and I will describe my setup. The Ultimeter-II comes standard with temperature probe, wind vane and anemometer. I also purchased the optional rain gauge with 0.01" resolution. The unit has an RJ-11 jack on its display box which is used to output data. Using a standard phone cord, I cut off one RJ-11 plug and wired it to a DB-9 connector, the green wire to pin 2 and black to ground, pin 5. In addition, a 5k pull-down resistor is connected between pins 2 and 3, since the Ultimeter-II does not output true RS-232 signal levels. (Note: the weather interface software does not run under the "freeware" version of APRS. The program has to be registered with the author, WB4APR, for \$29, plus the \$9 weather option.)

When APRS is started and the V (validate) routine is run, the program will prompt you for information about the attached weather instruments. Make sure you save the setup by pressing ALT-S then S. Now APRS will poll the weather instruments at an interval you set and transmit a properly formatted weather packet. In addition, your computer will display a blue circle with a wind vector over your location.

There is a way to set up a remote weather station using only a TNC and radio. The TNC needs to be GPS-compatible and the weather station needs to be one of the newer Ultimeters. Since the Ultimeter outputs data continuously, the TNC can be set to look for the beginning of the data string and transmit at regular intervals. To make the weather information APRS-compatible, the TNC has to be set to transmit a beacon text which includes the station's latitude and longitude. When the receiving APRS station has received both the position beacon and the weather packet, it will plot the weather station on the screen in the correct location.

How about attaching a GPS receiver to a GPS-compatible TNC? You get an APRS tracker! A typical system consists of a global positioning system receiver with a data output jack, a Kantronics KPC-3 TNC, and a 2-meter transceiver.

I use a Garmin 38 GPS receiver in my vehicle. Since Garmin wanted an exorbitant amount of money for their data interface cable, I made my own poor man's connectors using some junk-box female Molex pins crimped around the male pins on the GPS. The GPS data connects to the 25-pin connector on the TNC, and the TNC is set for 4800 baud, the GPS data rate.

There are several settings on the TNC which have to be set for proper operation. These are detailed in the F1-F help files in APRS. But basically, you are telling the TNC to watch the continuous GPS data stream and store in one of four memory slots the proper GPS "sentence." Then at predetermined intervals, the TNC transmits the sentence as position information. Typical desired sentences are \$GPGGA, which gives latitude, longitude, and altitude; or \$GPRMC, which gives latitude, longitude, course, and speed. I have mine programmed to alternate between the two and transmit every two minutes using different UNPROTO paths.

How your tracker is displayed on APRS depends on your callsign and your UNPROTO setting. The SSID of your callsign (the number added after your call) will cause different icons to be displayed. For instance:

WJ9H-9 displays a car
WJ9H-4 displays a bicycle
WJ9H-14 displays a truck

Continued on page 7

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ANTENNA NEEDS A RIDE: WB9GYT is looking for someone to transport an antenna from Clearwater, Florida to Milwaukee. The "catch" is that the boom is a 20 ft. long (continuous) piece of aluminum. If you can help him out, he can be reached at rkissell@execpc.com, or: Rick Kissell, Box 1101, Milwaukee, WI, 53201-1101. Phone (414) 643-8039.

The Automatic Packet Reporting System

Continued from page 6

You can also set the UNPROTO parameter for more display options. Normally UNPROTO is set to CQ, BEACON, or APRS. If you set it to one of the settings specified in the SYMBOLS.TXT table, you can override the SSID setting. For instance, my tracker IDs as WJ9H-9 but the UNPROTO parameter is:

UNPROTO GPSLV VIA WIDE,WIDE
...which forces my icon display to a light van.

For the Madison Marathon on May 30, we used a homebrew tracker (GPS, TNC and HT mounted inside a plastic toolbox) and a few of the new Kenwood TH-D7 handi-talkies with built-in TNCs. With the addition of GPS receivers to the Kenwoods, we then had trackers for three of the Marathon's shuttle buses and one in the vehicle preceding the lead runner. Back in the communications tent, we could see the position plots of all those vehicles over a map of Madison. For dispatching buses, it saved time not having to query all the bus operators what their positions were on the voice net. This is just one useful application combining GPS and APRS over amateur radio.

Finally, if the tracker is within range of an APRS InterNet gateway, web browsers can also display the position of the vehicle. Look for me at <http://maps.aprs.net/wj9h-9>. Or insert the desired callsign after the slant bar.

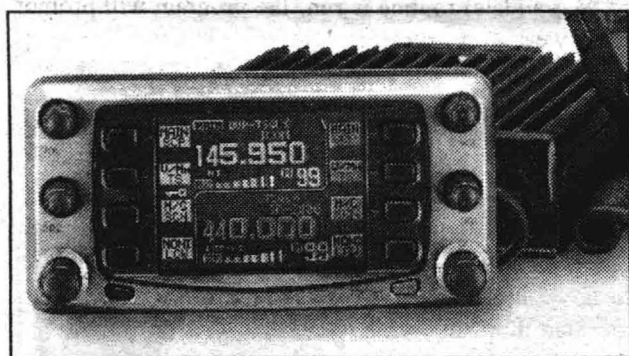
Next month we'll go into more detail on displaying weather and mobile stations. If you're joining this series on APRS in progress, you can find previous articles at www.execpc.com/~tcweeden. See you on 144.39! □

Card of Thanks

Roy (W9FHH) and Beryl (W9BBA) Pedersen would like to thank all those who sent cards and letters for their 50th wedding anniversary. Thanks, too, to those who traveled long distances to be with them on their special day. They extend their gratitude for a wonderful time, especially to the more than 20 ham radio operators who attended.

NEW PRODUCTS

ICOM IC-2800H Dual Band VHF/UHF Transceiver



Icom's new IC-2800H has a unique full color LCD display with user-selectable modes and video capabilities. But it's not just pretty. With durable construction, installation flexibility, a bandscope function, 9600 bps packet, independent tuning controls, convenient memory editing and much more, the IC-2800H offers advanced functions, convenient features and superior performance.

With the IC-2800H, an unbelievable 3" TFT color LCD remote control head gives wide angle viewing for mobile flexibility and all around useability. The high visibility screen offers a wealth of information: scope, S meter, memory names, scan condition, and more. The brightness and contrast controls are easy to adjust and are located in the edit menu. Quickly find and adjust any controls. And with optional and/or third party equipment, preview real-time VCR or digital camera images, monitor TV broadcasts with a TV tuner, display GPS maps, and more. (BSSS editor's warning: It is illegal under Wisconsin law, and likely in other states, to have a TV screen in a motor vehicle that can be seen in the front seat area.)

The IC-2800H control head is compact, measuring 5.5" in width, 2.75" in height, and 1.3" in depth. The main unit, measuring 5.5" wide by 1.6" high by 6.6" in depth, can easily be placed under a car seat. The IC-2800H transmits 50 watts on 144 - 148 MHz, and 35 watts on 430 - 450 MHz.

Independent tuning controls on the IC-2800H is Icom's original tuning control system for smooth operation. A tuning dial, AF gain, squelch level control, and 4 function control switches are available for each band.

For more information about Icom radios, please contact Icom America, Inc., 2380 116th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98004. (425) 454-8155. To request a free brochure, call (425) 450-6088, or visit Icom's web site at www.icomamerica.com.

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter "Glacier": Epilogue

U.S. Department
of Transportation
United States
Coast Guard



COMMANDING OFFICER
USCGC GLACIER (WAGB 4)

6735 N. BASIN AVE
PORTLAND, OR 97217

1650
09 APR 1987

From: Commanding Officer, USCGC GLACIER (WAGB 4)
To:

Subj: APPRECIATION OF SERVICES

1. On behalf of the Officers and crew of the United States Coast Guard Cutter GLACIER, I wish to express our appreciation for your efforts in handling phone patch traffic from the ship to loved ones at home during our return trip to our home port of Portland, Oregon. It is especially significant this year, as this is the last deployment of this Polar Icebreaker and many of the crew needed to pass information relative to new assignments.

2. GLACIER has made twenty-nine trips to Antarctica in its thirty-two year history. Ham radio operations have played a significant role in aiding the morale of countless Crewmembers by giving them the opportunity to speak to their families and friends during these arduous deployments.

3. Phone patch operations of this type, with the demands on your personal time and equipment, without personal compensation, represents the amateur service at its finest.

Sincerely,

A. T. Polasky

A. T. Polasky
Executive Officer
By direction

Here's a copy of the letter from the commanding officer of the USCG Cutter "Glacier" that was sent to the stations in the U.S. which handled phone patch traffic for the crew of that ship during its final journey from Australia to Astoria, Oregon, for decommissioning. Sherm Carr, W9NGT, was aboard Glacier for that trip, and operated the ham station to patch crew members to their families. Sherm's son Mike was posted to Glacier, and father and son made that last transit together. Sherm thanks all who responded so nicely to his journal, which was printed from January to June of this year here in BSSS. So do we!

Third Annual!

CIRCUS CITY SWAPFEST

Sponsored by
The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Baraboo, Wisconsin

Ham Radio, Computer & Electronics Extravaganza!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1999
7:00 A.M. UNTIL NOON

Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Vendors * Tail Gate Area
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\$5 Admission, \$4 In Advance

8 Foot Tables \$5 Each

(1 Admission Included Per Table - ADVANCE SALES ONLY)

Set-up 6:00 a.m.

VE Testing

9:00am Code - 10:00am Written

Talk-In

146.880 Repeater
146.520 Simplex
WB9FDZ

The Sauk County Fairgrounds is located on highway 33, on Baraboo's far east side.
From I-90/94: Take exit 106 (Hwy 33) west to Baraboo
From Hwy. 12: Take Hwy. 33 east at the Kwik Trip in West Baraboo

For more information contact: Steve, N9UDO at (608) 356-2313 voice,
(608) 356-4777 fax, steven9udo@baraboo.com e-mail or Bill, N9KXX at
(608) 643-6908 days, (608) 643-6453 evenings, or (608) 643-8850 fax

Visit us on the World-Wide Web: <http://www.thelbrax.com/~sschuize/hamfest.htm>

For Advance Tickets Send Check With A Self Addressed Stamped Envelope To:
Yellow Thunder A.R.C., 1120 City View Road, Baraboo, WI 53913-9704

Company Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Contact Person: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____ E-MAIL: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

No. Of Tickets: _____ X \$4.00= _____ Electricity Required? Y / N

No. Of Tables: _____ X \$5.00= _____ Total Amount Enclosed= _____

(one complimentary admission ticket with the purchase of each table - ADVANCED SALES ONLY)

CORRESPONDENCE: Friends for 30 years meet for the first time



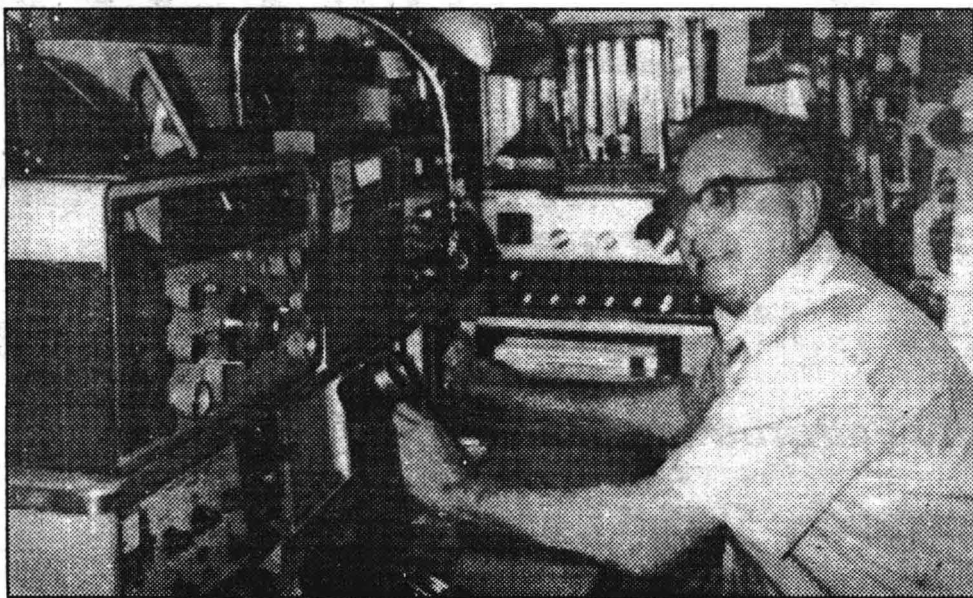
Fred Becker, W9KKM (left), Wisconsin Dells, WI, and Harry Dahlin, W3HCD, both former telegraphers, had been yakking with each other for thirty years but had never met until April, 1999.

Photo courtesy Harry Dahlin/W3HCD

Dear Jim:

Enclosed are two pictures. One is my first station back in 1967, the other (above) is of Fred Becker, W9KKM, and myself.

Fred and I began having daily QSOs for about 30 years on CW but we had never



Harry Dahlin, formerly WA8UQX, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, at his first ham station in 1967.

Photo courtesy Harry Dahlin/W3HCD



VARI-NOTCH® DUPLEXERS FOR 2 METERS

The TX RX Systems Inc. patented Vari-Notch filter circuit, a pseudo-bandpass design, provides low loss, high TX to RX, and between-channel isolation, excellent for amateur band applications. TX RX Systems Inc. has been manufacturing multicoupling systems since 1976. Other models available for 220 and 440 MHz, UHF ATV and 1.2 GHz.

MODEL 28-37-02A

144-174 MHz
92 dB ISOLATION AT 0.6 MHz SEPARATION
400 WATT POWER RATING

TX RX SYSTEMS INC.

Dave Barquist, K9PAK, Factory Representative
414-367-2929 or E-Mail txrx@electpdcts.com



19" RACK MOUNT

FIELD DAY



We hope your club or group's Field Day was a good one. If you have a photo or two to spare, BSSS just might print one or more!

met. A surprise came on April 16. Fred and his wife, Helen, and their daughter and husband, drove here from Washington, D.C. while on vacation.

I worked for the Milwaukee Road back from 1927 to 1934. Fred started on the same division in 1940, and he has kept me updated on all the new improvements over the years.

That first station of mine shows my National NC-300 and the Heathkit Apache transmitter, which I assembled from a kit. Later, I got a Johnson Viking Valiant II and wired that together, the best transmitter I ever had, I wish I still had it. I used to love getting those kits and assembling them.

Our meeting was one of the nicest surprises of my life. I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed having them here for that very short time, but they were on a tight schedule. I do thank them for taking to come up here from Washington.

I was born and went through school in Park Falls, WI. On June 12, I will be 90.

Harry C. Dahlin

ex-telegrapher, Soo/Milwaukee RR/NYCRR and B&ORR

OZAUKEE COUNTY EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

By Richard Regent, K9GDF

David Barrow, N9UNR of the Town of Cedarburg, has been working vigorously as Emergency Coordinator (EC) of Ozaukee County since he was appointed by Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Kaplan, WB9-RQR, on January 1, 1999.

An EC is a team leader of an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) group. Dave as an EC is the person who plans, organizes, maintains response-readiness and coordinates emergency communications for Ozaukee County. Much of his job involves promoting a working relationship with local government and agencies. A typical month's activities includes holding meetings, training members, keeping records, encouraging newcomers, determining equipment availability, leading others in drills or being the first on a scene in actual disasters.

Dave is an active member of the ARRL and the Ozaukee Radio Club, was formerly with CAP and USCG Auxiliary, and is a member of the Florida Bar. Being the proprietor of Stonewall Computer Center, a consulting firm, Dave has used Power Point software to design and compile a terrific looking tour of Ozaukee County Emergency Management Center. The tour topics explain all of the communications facilities, 800 MHz radio, amateur radio, marine radio, citizens-band radio, satellite weather, packet radio, paging, and the internet. Digital color photos show operating positions and outlined well-organized written instructions give even the newcomer a quick overview plus step-by-step procedures. Plastic page protectors and a three ring binder insures reliability. Dave says that updates can be made easily and instantly. He also continues to develop the 60-page Policy and Procedure manual that is issued to each member of Ozaukee Amateur Radio Emergency Services (OZARES).

N9UNR likes to use E-mail to keep the ARES group informed but has periodic on-the-air nets to get the word out to others. Dave says, "When Stan appointed me he agreed to let me ease into the job of EC. He is still continuing to do a lot of things like the icon exams, ID cards, and other tasks. How Stan managed to do everything he did when he was EC, I'll never know. In fact, I am parceling out some of the chores because I can't do it all".

Dave has developed a placard to display in windshields or place on the dashboards of emergency communication vehicles. It folds in half to show the OZARES logo to the outside; and frequencies, what to report and detailed information on the inside. Dave can be reached by E-mail at n9unr@execpc.com or you might check out his interesting amateur radio web page site at <http://www.execpc.com/~n9unr/>.



NWS honors Sherm Carr, W9NGT

At right is a copy of the text on the plaque present to W9NGT by the National Weather Service on June 15. The plaque is polished bronze on a mahogany base, 12 inches wide by 15 inches high.

Sherm asks that all of the hundreds of amateurs who, throughout the years, be given the real credit; he says that while he may have initiated the plan, each individual made it work.

Here is what Joe Sullivan, regional warning coordination meteorologist for 14 states in the region headquarters in Kansas City, is quoted as saying in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*:

"There's no way of knowing how many lives he has saved because he got us the information we needed in a timely fashion."

Dave Theophilus, meteorologist in charge of the NWS' Omaha, Nebraska, office, who was in the Milwaukee NWS office in 1967, came to Sullivan for the ceremony. Both he and Sullivan are radio amateurs themselves.

Theophilus is quoted in the *Journal Sentinel* this way:

"We've reached a point at the National Weather Service when I don't think we could do our jobs without Amateur Radio operators."

Sherm's wife, Marianne, became a caterer "in-house" during severe weather network operations. The *Journal Sentinel* said it this way:

"Playing second fiddle whenever Mother Nature was on a rampage was of no concern to her, she said, explaining 'It was important to him and to everybody else in Wisconsin. He wanted people to be safe.'" The paper said she provided non-stop coffee and sandwiches as Sherm sat for hours, glued to his headphones during severe weather watches.

Joe Sullivan again: "Regardless of whether it was the first (ham-forecaster network), your efforts have been duplicated across the country." □

Spectrum protection bill adds cosponsors

There are now 76 cosponsors for The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, HR 783. The measure would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" should the agency reallocate any Amateur Radio or Amateur Satellite service allocations to another service.

"Our regular visits to Congressional offices on Capitol Hill indicate that, while most members of Congress understand and appreciate the benefits of Amateur Radio, some are reluctant to sign onto such a technical piece of legislation without some indication of support from their own constituents," says ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA.

HR 783 still must make it out of the House Telecommunications Subcommittee and its parent House Commerce Committee before it goes to the House floor. There's a lot of pending legislation already in the pipeline, however, so that could take some time.

Hams wishing to help the effort to move HR 783 can do so by writing to their member of Congress. Visit ARRLWeb.

<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr783.html>

for a sample letter and addresses.

— Steve Mansfield, N1MZA
The ARRL Letter

THE BARGAIN MODE

SSB

SELL SWAP BUY

OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

WANTED: Looking for manual for a Drake TR-4C along with the schematics of the rig and matching power supply. A copy would be fine, and I will cover the cost of the copying, postage, etc. Ken Rogers, W9NUE, 21720 W. Glengarry Rd., New Berlin WI 53151. kr Rogers@excepc.com

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-830S HF transceiver. \$450.00. (715) 568-1011. □

National Weather Service Central Region SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

SHERMAN CARR
WISCONSIN SKYWARN

FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION
IN CREATION OF THE HAM RADIO SKYWARN PROGRAM

Mr. Sherman Carr is recognized for his tireless dedication dating back from the 1960s in the organization of amateur radio operators into the groundbreaking Wisconsin SKYWARN severe weather reporting network. His efforts have helped the National Weather Service protect the public from severe weather for many years.



ISSUED: JUNE 1999

Richard P. Augulis
RICHARD P. AUGULIS
CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR



9A QRP Club

Mark Michel, W9OP, of Menasha, passed this along to us for publication:

"The 9A - QRP Club invites you to become a member.

"Membership is 12 USD (U. S. dollars) for life. If three or more future members pay the membership at once together, then is only 6 USD per person.

"You will get membership certificate, membership number, awards rules...."

The address given is:

9A- QRP Club
Franjevacica 5
42220 N. Marof
Croatia

It was sent to Mark by 9A3FO. □



The Chicago FM Club presents

RADIO EXPO 99

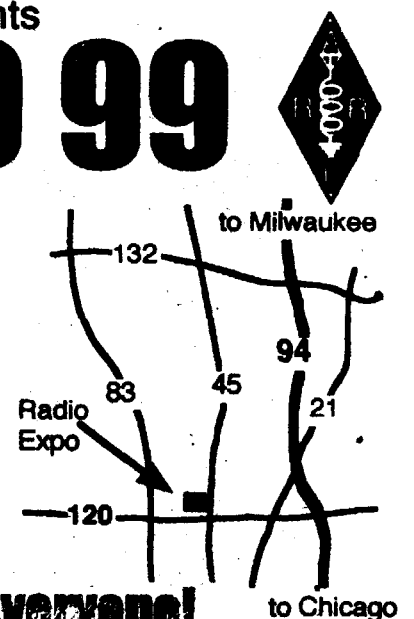
SEPTEMBER

25th & 26th

LAKE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS

RTS. 45 & 120
GRAYSLAKE IL

Grounds Open from
Thursday at noon
Flea Market open
both days at 6 AM
Exhibit Buildings open
Sat 8 AM to 4 PM
Sun 8 AM to 3 PM



Radios | Computers | Electronics for everyone!

Newest amateur equipment from major manufacturers

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3 large buildings (over 40,000 sq ft) for indoor flea market tables

Hundreds of outdoor flea market sellers filling the fairgrounds

Advanced tickets \$6 - At the Gate \$8- Good both days - Kids under 12 free

FREE PARKING - Outdoor electrical hookups available - FREE CAMPING

VEC testing both days

Interesting forums presented both days

Talk-in on the CFMC repeater 146.16/76 MHz (107.2 Hz PL)

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Questions ??? Call Radio Expo (708) 457-0966 (Voice-Mail & FAX)

or visit our web site at <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

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Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Table Reservations for all buildings - \$20.00 per table (8ft long) - good both days _____ x \$20.00 = _____
Building assignment at discretion of CFMC / Do not mail table/ticket requests after Sept. 12, 1999

Advanced sale tickets - \$8.00 - REQUIRED with tables - good both days _____ x \$8.00 = _____

Electric - Inside - \$10.00 both days _____

Outside electric - \$10.00 good for entire event _____

Total _____

Make check out to: CHICAGO FM CLUB & send to: PO Box 56724 Harwood Hts IL 60656-0724
Remember to send a #10 size (business) self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Art Evans, KA9KLZ, Secretary
213 N. Jefferson • Cuba City WI 53807-1558

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1100	0600	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1700	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2230	1730	WB9WHQ
WNN	Yes	3723	2300	1800	KB9OCZ
WSSN	Yes	3645	2330	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0000	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0300	2200	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61 (Mondays CDT)	0030 (Menomonie Area)	1930	KA9OMC
Gr. Bay	No	72/12 (Green Bay Area)	0245	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	No	4.65/5.25 (South East/South Central Wisconsin)	0200	2100	
RACES	No	3993.5 (LSB Sunday)	1400	0900	WA9OAY

Wisconsin NTS Traffic Report • May 1999

Monthly Net Activity Summary

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1328	1658	2325	31	W9RCW
BEN	502	60	867	31	KE9VU
WSBN	515	70	765	30	WB9WHQ
WNN	121	10	315	27	KB9OCZ
WSSN	195	36	324	31	N9BDL
WIN/E	215	71	318	31	WB9ICH
WIN/L	195	45	302	31	W9UW
D9RN	358	153	658	58	AF9FA

Station Activities

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL	
K9JPS	1	446	86	299	832	*BPL
W9RCW	0	417	31	356	804	*BPL
K9RTB	0	370	70	299	739	*BPL
W9IHW	3	265	40	162	467	
K9GU	0	198	65	137	360	
W9YPY	0	161	183	0	344	
AF9FA	0	119	90	10	219	
W9CBE	0	77	87	3	167	
AG9G	0	42	65	21	128	
N9KHD	0	38	45	4	87	
W9YCV	1	31	43	12	87	
K9LGU	0	67	18	1	86	
N9BDL	0	26	58	0	84	
N9CK	6	33	31	2	72	
KE9VU	0	27	33	0	60	
W9UW	0	43	14	0	57	
KA9KLZ	0	0	54	0	54	
AA9BB	1	1	37	0	39	
K9FHI	0	5	30	0	35	
KG9B	0	1	32	0	34	
KA9FVX	0	2	30	1	33	
K9HDF	0	0	31	0	31	
WB9ICH	0	22	3	0	25	
WD9FLJ	3	5	3	4	15	
N9JIY	0	0	11	0	11	
K9UTQ	0	3	3	2	8	

Summer activities and conditions give us the opportunity to sharpen our traffic-handling skills. When we are working for a public service event -- a race, walk, parade -- we learn more net discipline. While we may have lots of fun on Field Day, we are listening through all the QRM to get a very specific call and report under less than ideal conditions. On those nets when we must relay for each other or

strain to copy through the static crashes and QSB, we build our skills for message handling during times of need. In a way, summer can be kind of an extended simulated emergency test. We use the adversity it brings to prepare ourselves to do even better what we do well -- handle messages efficiently and exactly. We do that because it's a service.

Feel free to contact me via the nets or

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Kim Kunze, N9SDL, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

Meeting Minutes June 1, 1999

Meeting was called to order by KB9-DED, members present: N9NMH, N9-IAB, N9TTA, N9MEA, KB9RXA, KB9-FRB, KB9DZG, N9SDL, W9WW, KB9-MCZ, N9NQW, KB9JMB, N9ZMC, N9SDI, N9PHC, KB9QHR, and N9WPH. Minutes as published in BSSS approved by KB9DZG and W9WW. Treasurer's report approved by W9WW and N9IAB.

New Business

The WVRA now has a web page. It can be accessed at:

WWW.dwave.net/~wvra

or at

wvra.cjb.net

The WVRA also has an email address of w9sm@arrl.net.

Check out the web page, as it lists upcoming events, meeting minutes, packet radio information, ham radio dealer links, manufacture links etc. This is a first pass at doing this by KB9KSS, and has plans to add a VHF and up page as well as AMSAT info, etc.

We are looking for someone to coordinate arrangements for grills and coolers for Field Day which is June 26 and 27 and will be located at Camp Phillips.

Andy, N9NRA, has resigned his board position as he will be moving out of town. The WVRA board will be looking for a replacement to serve out Andy's term until elections next April. Any one interested please contact one of the board members

or leave a message on the web page.

Also discussed at the meeting was securing a new trustee for the W9SM club call and repeaters. The trustee of the call is responsible for any and all use of the W9SM call. The repeater trustee is responsible for the goings on of the repeater. If you are interested to be considered for this responsibility please contact one of the board members.

We also must move from our current meeting site of 500 Grand Ave. We will secure a room at NTC in Wausau. The location change was approved by members present after a motion by W9WW and 2nd by N9SDL Listen to the repeater DVR for information as well as posting on the WVRA web page.

Jim, N9SDI, is looking for communicators for the following events:

1999 Fat Tire / Flat Foot Biathlon to be held July 17, 1999 at the Nine Mile Recreation area. He is looking for 8 volunteers to be there at 9:00 until about 12:30.

Also the 1999 Slalom Nationals / Wausau Mid America races to be held at the Whitewater Park in Wausau July 31 and Aug. 1, 1999. He is looking for 8 - 10 volunteers to be there 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days or whatever you can volunteer. Bring 2M HT and sunscreen, rain gear, bug spray and possibly a cushion to sit on.

Technician classes will be offered by the WVRA this fall. Look to the web page or upcoming meeting minutes for more details. There will be no cost for the course, but you must purchase the *Now You're Talking* text book.

Adjournment: W9WW & N9TTA.

Respectfully submitted:
Kim Kunze,
N9SDL



SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Steve Eisold, AA9SJ, Secretary
2220 N. 20th Street • Sheboygan WI 53083

2-Meter Repeater: 147.06 Output

June 1999

The June meeting of the Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by Vice President Larry, WB9FXQ, at 7 p.m. local time.

There were 8 members present at the meeting. The SCARC meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross building, 2032 Erie Ave., Sheboygan.

Treasurer's report given by Steve, N9TRK, showing a balance of \$832.84 in the checking account. Steve also reminded the members that yearly membership dues will be accepted after the Field Day event.

Due to inclement weather on June 5,

the removal of the club antennas and tower was postponed. An alternate date will be discussed by the board and will be posted here and on the 7.06 repeater. The antennas will be down before Field Day, as the tri-bander will be used for the event.

Larry, WB9FXQ, had 2 news clippings to show the group. The first from the *Sheboygan Press* dated 1923 mentioned club members and a debate about a recommended "Quiet Time", which would require no transmitter operation between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and midnight every night. It also indicated that each meeting

Continued on page 11

Email onewish@compufort.com for any requests or suggestions. I'm still trying to get the format for these reports set up so

everyone can see them legibly.

73. K9LGU

Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 10

began with a half hour of code practice for prospective operators. A "friendly" competition was held, and the first non-licensed code operator who could copy 10 WPM would receive a 1 year subscription to *QST* and a 1 year membership to the ARRL, complements of the Sheboygan Amateur Radio Association. The second news article came from the June 2, 1999 *Wall Street Journal*. It compared required Morse Code testing to the long dreaded Latin exams of my grade school days.

Net control operators for the next 3 weeks are as follows:

6/14 K9SJ
6/21 N9TRK
6/28 KG9OM
7/5 Holiday??

Bob, KG9OM, gave the wrap-up for Field Day preparations. 11 people have committed to the weekend. 4 or 5 operators will be there the entire weekend. Bob said, several members mentioned they will stop, but did not give him a definite operating time. Please contact Bob with a more specific time frame for operating. If you don't want to operate, help logging at each station will also be appreciated. Set-up will begin Friday night about 6 p.m. Presently, there are 4 people helping with set-up; we could use more. There will also be a sign-in sheet at the event this year.

The ARRL is offering Participation Pins for anyone helping with the weekend.

After the weekend is done and it's time to dismantle the stations, remember everything that came up there must come back down; we can still use help here too.

June was election month. The membership cast their ballots for new officers. Beginning their new positions, Field Day weekend, are:

President Steve Billings, N9TRK

Vice-President Bob Durfee, KG9OM
Secretary Sky Borgenhagen, N9XRU
Treasurer Mike Musiel, K9SJ
Board Members (2)
Larry Bahr, WB9FXQ
Steve Weber, KB9SVW

Bob, KG9OM, gave a brief presentation about DX QSL card exchange. Tips regarding the difference between using the bureau and a QSL manager were discussed. He also stated that there is a web site,

www.dxcentral.com

that can be used for finding specific managers for DX stations.

Sky, N9XRU, has a steel cabinet with glass locking doors, several adjustable shelves inside. If anyone is interested, contact Sky.

Lyle, WE9R, stated that the power supply and the computer for the DX cluster link had smoke and water damage and are beyond repair. Anyone with a 6 amp PS or a 486 computer not being used should contact Lyle.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Just a reminder, if you use e-mail consider signing up to the Sheboygan Hams mailing list. Just submit your e-mail address to julian@bongo.tele.com. E-mail sent to shebbham@tele.com will be forwarded to all listed subscribers. Thanks again to N6ARE for providing the mail server for SCARC and ARES use.

For those of you who are not on the web and have correspondence for the club our address is: PO Box 1282, Sheboygan WI. 53082-1282.

Net Schedules

8 p.m. Monday nights, SCARC-Fun Net, 147.06 PL 107.2, +.

10 Meter Net, Monday nights following the 2 meter net, 28.350 USB.

Respectfully submitted:
Steve Eisold, AA9SJ

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402



The patron Saint of Finance joined the Kenosha Amateur Radio breakfast group on June 6th at PJ's Bar and Grill in Kenosha to celebrate the first Sunday in June by breaking bread, swapping rare DX contact stories and complaining about governmental interference in our daily lives. The Saint's duty, according to lore, is to select from a large grocery store bag two slips of papers. The bag contains the names, calls and addresses of all the Hams in Southeast Wisconsin on those individual pieces of paper. The Great Financial Wizard has decreed that if a year passes without a major winner, the group shall draw names until the name of an Amateur in attendance is selected. On the eighth dip into the bag the name Fern Fisher, W9LCJ was drawn and she was given the \$100 door prize. When the door prize funds skyrocket into the stratosphere the group holds a special \$25 drawing for those in attendance. Our June winner was Bob Jensen, W0WLN. I have always advocated that it pays to belong to QCWA! Congratulations, Fern and Bob!

Our Vice-President, Net Control Operator, and Mosquito Bash Host, Ken Knoff, N9NBC, was stricken by the sickness bug just prior to, and causing the cancellation of, our annual mosquito bash. Ken's heart assumed an other than normal rhythm when he reclined. When sitting straight or standing everything was fine. But the local cardiologist was a bit concerned and hospitalized our Field Day Chairman. Two days later, Ken was allowed to return home and everything appears to be OK.

Our Field Day outing was held at Decision Farm in Caledonia (Racine County) under perfect weather conditions (I

hope) as the Chapter operated two transceivers utilizing QRP power and a few innovative technological environmental aids to test our emergency equipment and skills. The cast of characters and activity highlights will be forthcoming next month.

The Southeast Wisconsin Amateur Radio community is looking to host a Ham Banquet in September or October. Details at this writing are still being hammered out. In conjunction with the Ham Banquet, the local Radio Clubs are looking for nominations for the "Ham of the Year" and the "Olie Fox Award of Excellence" plaques.

The criteria for each are as follows: The Ham of the Year nominations can be for any licensed Amateur living in the Greater Southeastern Wisconsin area. This includes Northeastern Illinois. The Ham must have contributed significantly to Amateur Radio and his or her community. The nomination must be in writing detailing why the individual was nominated.

Nominations for the Olie Fox Award of Excellence is similar with the exception being that the individual nominated must have first been licensed 25-years prior to receiving the award.

Nominations for either award can be mailed to Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, 5400 Six Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402-9741. For clarification or more details, I may be reached by telephone at (414) 639-7327, or e-mail at:

wa9jmo@wi.net

There will not be a July meeting. Our August picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 15th at Decision Farm. Attendees

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.

At University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point



WB9QFW 2-Meter Repeater 146.07-.67 and Club Station

2229 Dixon Street • Stevens Point, WI 54481

Meeting Minutes June 9, 1999

President Al Mallek, K9WVM, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. A motion was made by Joe Larson, N9JW, and seconded by Bob Baird, W9NN, to approve the minutes of last month's meeting as printed in the *Badger State Smoke Signals*. The motion was passed. Joe Omernik, N9CGV, read the treasurer's report and it was approved.

Joe, N9JW, reminded everyone about the Wisconsin Special Olympics State Summer Games taking place June 10, 11, and 12. If you can help out, please do so. The Debot Center is again the site for Tournament Central.

Art Wysocki, N9BCA, reported that Field Day will be held at his place and that he and Mike will get the equipment from the clubhouse. Mike will be bringing his computer and logging program, and Mary volunteered to bring her printer so we could print out the results after the contest is over. It was decided that there would be a picnic afterwards. Everyone should bring whatever meat and soda he or she wishes to have and then a dish to pass.

Bob, W9NN, said that Ron Howe, N9JH, called the company that made the repeater and found out what some of the problems were. They worked on it. Bob distributed the autodial information and codes for the repeater. Bob also said that he and Ron thinks we should get a trickle charger to put in the circuit to keep the new battery we just purchased fully charged.

Al reported that the .67 repeater is working. Joe Larson reported that Mike Pagel, K9UW, said he already dialed the ID down for the Special Olympics.

Then after a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Mike Peters, W9CO, and seconded by Gene Kroll, KE9MA, decided to not sell the raffle tickets. The motion passed. Raffle ticket sales were down last year and we will be looking for other ways to raise money in the next year.

With membership numbers being down, and no swapfest or raffle this year,

the club discussed ways of trimming our budget. We have some upcoming bills that need to get paid, including our liability insurance. One way to cut our expenses would be to read our minutes at the meetings or send them via e-mail and/or regular mail to the members rather than post them in the *Badger State Smoke Signals*. After a lengthy discussion, Gene, KE9MA, moved that we discontinue our subscriptions to the BSSS. Jan Rydberg, KB9RUJ, seconded and the motion passed. Mary will find out how long our subscription is good for so she knows when not to send the minutes to them.

The issue of raising dues was also discussed and a motion was made to place this issue on the agenda for the September meeting.

Mike Eiden, N9MI, reported that the test session on June 5 went very well. He announced that Dave Tamres, KB9IIF, passed his Advanced Exam, Kathy Mallon, KG9NX, passed the Extra Class Theory Exam, and Steve Clasen, passed the Novice written. Mike thanked the VE's who were there for the test session and said that there may be another test session held sometime in August.

Deb Kroll, N9EIL, moved the meeting be adjourned. Gene Kroll, KE9MA, seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on July 14 at room A-109 at the UWSP Science Building at 7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mary Eiden	KG9OK
Al Mallek	K9WVM
Roger Perry	AF7I
Jeanne Perry	WA1VKG
Jan Rydberg	KB9RUJ
Joe Larson	N9JW
Dave Tamres	KB9IIF
Mike Eiden	N9MI
Mike Peters	W9CO
Bob Baird	W9NN
Joe Omernik	N9CGV
Al Mallek	N9WBS
Art Wysocki	N9BCA
Gene Kroll	KE9MA
Debra Kroll	N9EIL

RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

STEVE HART, KA9OMC, SECRETARY

E616 810TH AVENUE

KNAPP, WI 54749

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

Greetings, RCRA sponsors and guests.

The word from KB9TLV, Jim McDonald at Cumberland, is that he has worked a couple more states on 6 meters and was busy working the contest on June 20. Besides hamming, John has purchased a two-car garage kit for assembling in the back yard.

WB9OKQ, Lyle Miller at Star Prairie, recently traveled to White Rock, South Dakota, on communications business and found himself invited to a local ham club-sponsored special event station. Lyle enjoyed the wide open space, lack of spectrum static, and no tower ordinances were an added plus.

On our get-well list is W9QAH, Bruce Walther at Stevens Point, with continued

back pain, and K9KGB, Bill Duncan at Menomonie, with a bout of the shingles.

K9GYF, Roger Olsen at Amery, enjoys hamming, flying and running. A regular event for Roger is "Grandma's Marathon".

N9NOY, Perry Young, has sold his ham shack at Menomonie and has tentative plans for a move back to Arizona. Perry would like to make a license upgrade so we can all stay in touch.

NQ9X, Ed Van Sickle at Pleasantville, has purchased a TS-60 and a six meter halo antenna. Look for Ed to reappear on the list of Emergency Coordinators for Trempealeau County, along with KB9JPN.

Please turn to page 12

are asked to bring a dish to pass, the Chapter will provide the soft drinks, a charcoal and two gas grills, and all the roasted corn on the cob you care to consume. We will have a flower walk, visit to

the animals, fishing, boating and a lot of plain relaxation. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us.

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO

Red Cedar Repeater Association

Continued from page 11

Jerry, sharing the load. NQ9X has been working on getting a "dog house" cover for the county emergency generator and has remote starting control available to him.

N9PPE, Jeff Cole, has resumed flying after his foot injury this winter. Jeff has a TS-830S for sale at \$450.00. Call Jeff at (715) 568-1011.

KC4VXO, Leroy Dick at Eau Claire, has volunteered to help RCRA plot the 40 adjacent terrain elevations to the main repeater site for the WAR coordination report. Leroy submitted a computer program to WAR to aid others in their reports.

N0PDD, Bob Stark at Winona, MN, is having critter problems this year. First, it was deer bothering the antenna feedline and now it is the squirrel that got into Bob's sunflower seeds. "Mercy!!"

KF9CU, Arlene Kraft at Cedar Falls, indicated that the ground moles were chewing up things in her garden. Maybe a little RF pointed their way may save the plants.

KB9SGY, David Garrett at Eau Claire, attended the "Kid's Day" for ham radio exhibited by the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club.

The RCRA has decided to not take additional T-shirt orders at this time, as our volunteers, KB9QGK, Deena, and KB9LUK, James, are doing some home construction and trying to find some time for summer. Thank you all.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC
Secretary/Treasurer

The Racine Megacycle Club

Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI
Dennis Doonan, W9DAD, Secretary
c/o RMC • P.O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 54301-0003
e-mail: w9udu@wi.net

Web: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>
Voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC • ARRL Affiliated
Providing communications for American Red Cross and ARES

MEETING MINUTES May 10, 1999

The May 10, 1999 regular membership meeting of the Racine Megacycle Club Inc. was opened at 7:30 p.m. by President Rees, K9UUT. Vice president Bob, W9EH, Secretary Dennis, W9DAD, Treasurer Greg, KB9RMA, and Activities Director Kevin, KB9LLV, were present. There was a total of 16 members present.

President K9UUT welcomed three new hams: KB9ULT -- Patrick, a 12 year old General Class, KB9ULU -- Matthew, a ten year old Advanced Class, and their father KB9ULB -- John, an Extra Class.

Secretary W9DAD read the minutes of the April 12, 1999 regular membership meeting. K9UUT made a correction. KB9SXI made a motion to accept the corrected minutes W9EH seconded, and the members approved.

Treasurer KB9RMA read the treasurer's report. KB9LLV made a motion to accept the report as read, KB9QNL seconded, and the members approved.

Activities Director KB9LLV read a letter from ARRL headquarters stating the

October 1 club auction will be an ARRL sanctioned event.

KB9LLV reported the first annual RMC club picnic and softball game will be held August 15, 3 p.m. at Stuart McBride Park, which is just behind the Mt. Pleasant Town Hall.

KB9LLV also presented an update on the upcoming Field Day.

W9EH reported that ARLOW now has applied for tax exempt status.

Bill, W9OVZ, reported that QCWA successfully provided communications for the Lutheran High School Walk on May 7. K9UUT and W9EH presented more thoughts on Field Day.

W9EH made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m. KB9LLV seconded and the membership voted in favor.

Phil, KC9IS, presented a program on his five week trip to Florida and Texas. KC9IS showed two of the antennas used to keep him in daily communications with the Racine area. HF mobile installations and operation were discussed.

Submitted by Dennis, W9DAD
Secretary to the Racine Megacycle Club

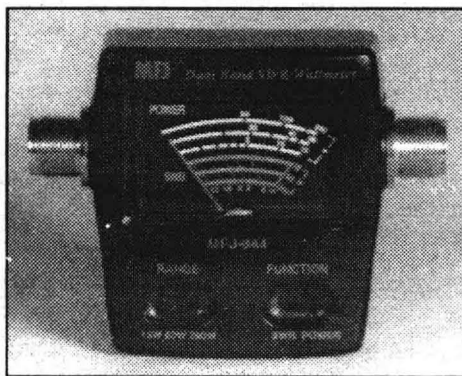
We Be Nine Field Day Zombies



Steve Schulze, N9UDO, president of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, twiddles the controls in the Great Hunt for contacts from WB9FDZ during Field Day 1999. The club was at its usual scenic site, Owen Park in western Columbia County.

NEW PRODUCTS

MFJ-844 VHF/UHF SWR/Power Meter



The new MFJ-844 VHF/UHF SWR/Power meter handles 200 watts and measures SWR and power in three ranges: 15W, 60W, and 200 watts. A multi-colored meter makes reading easy.

It covers 144 and 440 MHz. Insertion loss is 0.3 dB or less with 50Ω impedance. SO-239 connectors. Super compact size: 3.75"W x 3"H x 1.25"D. It's great for HTs or mobile rigs.

The MFJ-844 has MFJ's famous one-year "no matter what" limited warranty. MFJ will repair or replace (at our option) your MFJ compact SWR/Power Meter, no matter what, for one full year.

MFJ book "Ladder Crystal Filters"

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. announces the new book "Ladder Crystal Filters" by John Pivnichny, the only book devoted entirely to design and construction of crystal filters using crystals of just one frequency.

These filters are used in short wave and ham radio receivers and transmitters. Amateurs and professional designers will benefit from the comprehensive description of all types of crystal ladder filters.

The familiar lower sideband type, plus upper sideband filters, dual filters, and adjustable filters are presented. Practical information on measuring crystal parameters using simple equipment is included.

BASIC routines simplify the design process, allowing one to quickly build a high quality crystal filter. 136 pages. ISBN: 1-891237-20-9, \$14.95, paperback. To order, call 1-800-647-1800 or for your nearest dealer; FAX: 601-323-6551; email: mfj@mfjenterprises.com; or check out our catalog and web site at <http://www.mfjenterprises.com>.

MFJ-92AA1 Ni-MH AA Batteries

MFJ super high-capacity Ni-MH "AA" batteries have twice the power of standard Ni-Cds. Order MFJ-92AA1, \$2.99 each, or MFJ-92AA10, \$24.95, 10 pack - perfect for your MFJ-259B SWR Analyzer.

These MFJ-11200 mAh 1.2 volt batteries greatly extend the operating time of your electronic device. MFJ Ni-MH AA batteries have no detrimental memory effect that is the trademark of Ni-Cad batteries, so you can use them to their full potential.

They are perfect for your MFJ-259B SWRAnalyzer™ with its built-in battery charging circuit. Use the MFJ-259B up on a tower with these new batteries and then you can quickly charge them back up when you get home. Buy two sets so you'll always have a fully charged set of batteries.

MFJ news releases

New product news releases are sent to Badger State Smoke Signals by manufacturers. They are published as space allows, and usually are not edited.

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, President

P. O. Box 401

Abbotsford, WI 54405

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, July 1 at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Government meeting room located in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on the 147.15 Medford repeater (+600 kHz) or 146.52 MHz simplex.

MEETING AGENDA/PROGRAM

Potential topics of discussion include club membership; club finances; a summer club picnic; and the upcoming J.A. O'Leary Memorial Bicycle Race.

CLARK/TAYLOR COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) NEWS

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ
ARES Emergency Coordinator

✓ Don't forget to try to check into the weekly ARES net held Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on the Medford repeater (147.75/147.15). If the repeater is down or not functioning properly, alternate frequencies, in order, are 147.15 MHz simplex and 146.52 MHz simplex. You're also encouraged to volunteer for net control duty for the net.

FCC sets new vanity fee

The fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase from \$13 to \$14 starting September 10, 1999.

The FCC has released its FY 1999 fee schedule which rounded down the proposed \$1.42 per year fee.

The FCC continues to receive in excess of 1000 vanity applications per month.

ARRL Bulletin 41, 6/22/99

Sorry!

Each year, we usually print a few photos of participants in the Wisconsin QSO Party. We like to print 'em, you like to see 'em. So, why no pix? No-body sent any.

They went in peace for all mankind



Thirty years ago, an event occurred which forever changed the way mankind sees itself and its universe. On July 20, 1969, Mission Control at Houston, Texas, heard, a bit crackly with some static, "Houston... Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed." Much of the world heard those words at the same time on radio and television. Mission Control responded, including "You got a bunch of guys here about to turn blue!" Then we heard cheers, loud and boisterous, from Houston just as it should have been. Apollo 11 was the first time in history a human being had not only landed on but walked on another "planet": our own Moon, about a quarter of a million miles from home. Neil Armstrong climbed carefully down the ladder of

the LM (Lunar Module). As he placed one foot on the moon's surface, he said the now-immortal words, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." And with the future will come even more adventures as mankind's scientific curiosity takes people to the moon again, to Mars, and even beyond. To those three pioneers, Neil Armstrong, Neil "Buzz" Aldrin (in the photo), (who landed in the LM) and Mike Collins (who remained in lunar orbit in the CSM - Command and Service Module), we say "Thanks for opening the door to the future - indeed, to the final frontier."

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ
Editor

In this photo, Astronaut Edwin E. ("Buzz") Aldrin, Jr., lunar module pilot, is photographed during the Apollo 11 Extravehicular Activity (EVA) on the Moon. He has just deployed the Early Apollo Scientific Experiments Package (EASEP). This is a good view of the deployed equipment. In the foreground is the Passive Seismic Experiment Package (PSEP); beyond it is the Laser Ranging Retro-Reflector (LR-3); in the center background is the United States flag; in the far left background is the Lunar Module (LM). Astronaut Neil A. Armstrong, commander, took this picture with a 70mm lunar surface camera. Aldrin and Armstrong explored an area in the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon.

NASA photo

W5LFL: Phase 3D, ARISS will change face of ham radio

Past astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL -- the first ham to use Amateur Radio from outer space -- predicts that Phase 3D and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station projects will change the face of ham radio. "Educational value, technical value, it's all there right in front of us," he says of P3D and ARISS.

Garriott believes that Phase 3D -- which could launch as early as this fall -- can serve as a conduit for US students, with coordination from local amateurs, to hook up with youths in other countries to practice foreign language and for on-air cultural exchange. Garriott also pointed out that Phase 3D's eccentric orbit will make it visible from large portions of Earth for long periods of time. "P3D is going to open up a whole new opportunity that we did not have in low-Earth orbit like the space station or other low-altitude OSCARs," he said.

Garriott also says that astronauts on the ISS could include a brief daily ARISS transmission from the perspective of space aimed at school-agers "to stir up even more interest in our young people" about Amateur Radio. He discussed his ideas during forums at the Dayton Hamvention as well as in an interview with the ARRL.

In 1983, Garriott pioneered the SAREX program by

working dozens of earthbound hams on 2 meters using an H-T and an antenna mounted on the inside of the shuttle's window. "It's grown much further than any of us would have forecast back in 1983" when there were two astronaut-hams, Tony England, W0ORE, and himself.

Today, Garriott points out, there are more than 80 astro-hams, and Garriott is looking forward to Amateur Radio's playing a major role aboard the ISS. "The impact on the space program has been substantial," he said. Not only has Amateur Radio in space been good public relations for the hobby, but "it's very good for crew morale," Garriott said. This will be important for ISS crews in particular, since they'll spend longer periods in space.

Licensed for more than 50 years, Garriott says ham radio has been a very strong influence in his life and professional career from the very beginning. He also says he's encouraged by the number of young people joining the hobby, especially since the advent of the Technician license. "People may feel that it's not adequate progress or bemoan the fact that we are not further ahead than we are," he said. "But I think we really need to be quite pleased with how far we've come and the substantial interest we have, and make use of the poten-

Special event station W9C

Special event station W9C will operate July 7-10 from The Great Circus Parade showgrounds, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Expected hours of operation are 1800-0300 UTC, SSB and CW, 40-10 meters (7.040, 7.240, 14.040, 14.240, 21.040, 21.340, 28.040 and 28.140 MHz). Some 75/80-meter operation is possible. A commemorative certificate or card will go to confirmed contacts upon receipt of a QSL card. QSL to the West Allis Radio Amateur Club, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201. W9C will complement the activities of special event station W9R aboard The Great Circus Train (see July QST, p 89).

-- Les, W9YCV, *The ARRL Letter*

Stations who work W 9 R on the Great Circus Train must send a QSL and a 9" x 12" SASE with 3 units of first class postage affixed to K9ZZ to receive the full color certificate.

tial that we have in front of us coming along with Phase 3D and the International Space Station to stir up even more interest in our young people."

The ARRL Letter

hope, and it is not nearly as expensive as you might think. And it is not a new idea, but the march of technology has made it more practical.

What is this idea? As you may know, a few years ago the computer industry introduced "Wireless Network Cards". The units operate either on the 900 MHz or 2.4 GHz bands. They are "part 15" devices, no license is needed to use them. They operate using spread spectrum, and are capable of data rates of 2 Mbps.

Notice what bands they operate in - both are ham bands shared with other services. In addition, they are intended to operate with standard internet client programs, like Netscape and your mailer program.

Details:

These cards, as was said before, do not require a license. They operate at minimal power and are intended to operate over short distances. They plug into standard ISA and PCMCIA slots, depending on the make and model. Most were produced by AT&T, NCR, and Lucent Technologies. Because they have been out for a few years, we are starting to see these show up on the used market and at reasonable prices, too!

Legalities:

There are a couple of legal considerations that need to be taken into account with these "wavelan" cards, however.

First, these units use Spread Spectrum technology. We are permitted the use of Spread Spectrum in Amateur Radio, but are limited to two types and only 3 spread codes. This makes it harder for us to use them outside of the part 15 limitations.

This means that it will require some changes in the units themselves, or the rules that govern the Amateur Service before we can utilize them at higher power levels.

Another "fly in the ointment" is the protocol used. This may be a bit easier to overcome. Currently the FCC recognizes a few digital protocols as being legal in the amateur service. However, there is a little bit of confusion in the amateur community as to what it takes to legally use another protocol. Many hams forget that we are allowed to experiment with digital protocols, provided that we make the details of the protocol operation public. This means that the FCC has to be informed about any experimental protocol, with technical details provided as to how to decode and monitor it.

However, these hurdles can be overcome. Enterprising software engineers can modify the spread code to accommodate our 3 codes, or the FCC can be petitioned to permit new codes. Petitioning the FCC to permit this may not be as hard as you think. These wireless ethernet cards are common devices, and therefore, the FCC is familiar with them. Consequently, they may be persuaded to change the rules to allow something that is commercially standard.

Down the Road:

Now that the first part of this proposal is known, we can move on to the second part. Part 15 devices will provide limited range, but can't complete a network. You need more power to do that, and another market-driven solution can be employed here.

Cell phones have been with us for a while now, and we are starting to see a lot of "junkies" out there (especially the older "bag phone" types). These units will go onto the 902-928 MHz band with little or no modification.

If we marry a "wavelan" wireless ethernet card to one of these amplifiers, then we have the capability of providing a 2 Mbps data link over a pretty healthy distance. Technically this should not be too hard, although there are some special considerations that make it more suited as a project for skilled VHF/UHF home-brewers. Once a set procedure is known to modify these units, there should be not too much that can't be done by your average ham.

Barriers:

There are not too many barriers to this besides time and effort. Cost should not be too high, if you spend some time looking.

For example, you can often find old cell-phones at hamfests. Old wavelan cards can occasionally be found there, but the best source may be an information services department of a large corporation. They do upgrade their systems from time to time, and you can often find these cards on their way to the dumpster. A lot of these information systems people hang out with people that do the same work, so if one does not know of any such units, one of their friends may. Overcoming this barrier may be easier than you think.

Aside from the legal challenges that we may encounter, one of the biggest barriers is our own resistance to do something different. To those who don't want to change the system, I say that we must change to make progress. Our familiar modes of operation will have to adapt or be replaced. After all, we will be operating with internet systems, so our familiar AX.25 text-based system will also have to evolve. For example, BBS's may become web-based rather than text-based. And knowing what node will get you where may well turn into something of the past - this type of network would utilize internet networking methods. Which means that much more of what we do will become "automatic".

Conclusion:



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
450 West 2nd Street • Reedsburg, WI 53959



The June 1, 1999 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc. began its meeting with a guest speaker. Addressing the club this evening was Tim Seive, director, Sauk County Emergency Government. Tim has attended many meetings regarding the Y2K issue. He thought that planning for January 1, 2000 is no different than planning for natural disasters where there is an interruption of power and services.

It was decided that the July meeting will be held at the Sauk County EOC at the courthouse. Tim could then issue ID cards to those planning on helping out New Year's eve. Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB will at the EOC working 146.52 starting at 7 p.m. as a test of the equipment/system/coverage area. Everyone is encouraged to give Pete a call.

The meeting was called to order at 8:27 p.m. by Steve Schulze, N9UDQ. The minutes and treasurer's report were accepted.

Announcements: Marvin Kaiser wrote to say that the reason he did not renew his membership was because he moved to Georgia.

OLD BUSINESS: The generator was sold to a local party for \$350.00. The offer from an individual in Illinois was declined and the check returned.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussed field day. Continued planning for the ham fest August 14. Set-up will be Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. and continue the next morning 5 to 8:30 a.m. Members are being asked to help out Friday and Saturday. A cookout will be held for the members after cleaning-up Saturday.

Buck Night winner was Derek Wagner, who was not present, and hence didn't really win.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY July 6, 1999 at the EOC, Sauk County courthouse at 7:30 p.m. Call WD9JIB on 146.52 from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

George Gabay	N9QQR	New Lisbon
Peter Sweeney	WD9JIB	Reedsburg
Duane Grotphorst	N9DG	North Freedom
Jim Paul	N9LKY	Baraboo
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg
Steve Schwoegler	K9WD	Wis. Dells
Art Kleefisch	W9WSS	Baraboo
Bill Klinkner	N9KXX	Sauk City

Test Site: Fire Station No. 1

94th St. & Nicollet Avenue S.

Bloomington, MN

TESTING: Fourth Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Valley Amateur Radio Club (VARC)

Contact: Bill Martin, A10D (612) 432-0438

Test Site: Hayes Community Center

14601 Hayes Road

Apple Valley, MN

TESTING: Second Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m.

W5YI Group

Contact: Dave Ranney, N0AXL (612) 542-2553

Test Site: Eden Prairie Library

479 Eden Prairie Drive

Eden Prairie, MN

TESTING: Third Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m.

SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)

Contact: Dave Harrell, K0BTE (612) 459-8678

Test Site: Cottage Grove fire Station

8641 80th St., S

Cottage Grove, MN TESTING: Third Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

The times and places listed above are the usual time and place for each VE team. Occasionally, sessions are canceled or changed. It is a good idea to call ahead to confirm the test time and place.

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN at the address shown on page 2.

THE BARGAIN MODE

SSB

SELL SWAP BUY

OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

FOR SALE: ICOM 706 MarkII 160 Meters to 2 Meters. All mode transceiver, plus short wave. \$700.00.

Darrow's

COUNTRY MARKET

1212 8th STREET
BARABOO, WISCONSIN

THE TEST POINT

(continued from page 3)

STEVENS POINT, WI - CWRA SWAPFEST
WAUKESHA, WI - KMRA SWAPFEST
WAUKESHA, WI - MIDWINTER SWAPFEST
DUBUQUE, IA - HAMFEST

See the Swapfest column for additional information and contact persons.

DUBUQUE, IA - ARRL/VEC

Dubuque Hamfest. Contact: Carl Clark, N0KAX.
2145 Delicia Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001. (319) 557-9149.

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Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC).
Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, 1823 Hulin St., Rockford, IL 61102-2619. (815) 968-0080. e-mail WB9QYV@aol.com.

MINNESOTA TEST INFORMATION

From "The Ground Wave", Saint Paul Radio Club.

Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC)

Contact: Ed VanCleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108

Test Site: St. Paul Technical College

235 Marshall Ave.

St Paul, MN

TESTING: First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m.

Anoka Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

Contact: Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ (612) 483-3143

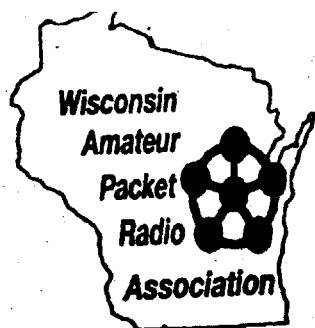
Test Site: Blaine City Hall

9150 Central Ave NE

Blaine, MN

TESTING: Second Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Bloomington Office of Emergency Management
(Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC))



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association
Allen Schnepf, NØGMJ, Treasurer
Ogema, WI 54459

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 453 Cottage Grove Avenue • Green Bay, WI 54304 • e-mail: kb9aln@juno.com

WAPR News - July, 1999

Hello, and hope you enjoy your July 4th holiday. This is a busy time of year for hams - first Field Day, then the 4th of July.

Hope you included packet radio in your Field Day operations this year. Lately, it seems that packet radio has been relegated to APRS use. Of course APRS has its place in ham radio operating, but that is not all that can be done with packet radio.

We seem to forget that these days, most packet radio operation seems to involve a little BBS operation, a lot of APRS operation, and a smattering of "miscellaneous" uses. We could be doing a lot more with packet radio, and there are some people that are pushing the boundaries. In our companion article this month, we'll explore an alternative to our current packet radio system.

However, first we will talk a little bit about what we have now. Last month, I mentioned that our WAPR Chairman Joel, NØBQM suggests a new statewide flood-message designator to replace the familiar "RTWIS". In order to conform to the rest of the packet community, Joel suggests we use "ALLWI". I have heard no comments on this pro or con, so I suspect that few would object to this change.

This change would mostly require a change of habit, and a change of BBS operator's forwarding files. If you operate a BBS, please include this change in your forwarding files. BBS users may wish to refrain from this until they know their local BBS will accept this change. If you have any doubt that your local BBS will accept this forwarding designator, drop a note to your BBS operator and ask. If he or she does not know about this change, drop a note to me and I will mail them a copy of last month's WAPR news column.

Now on to another topic - promoting packet radio. After reading the July issue of CQ-VHF, I am a little encouraged at what I saw in Don Ronzio's "Digital Data Link" column. He tells us of a very heartening story - the Phoenix rising from the ashes, in the form of NEDA, the North East Digital Association. Unbeknownst to a lot of folks, NEDA was near dissolution as recently as a few months ago. Well, it appears that things are turning around for this group, and I hope too soon.

Why do I bring this up? NEDA is an important organization, one whose recommendations concerning node operation have been widely adopted in this country and others. NEDA members are extensively involved in network experimentation, exploring new networking methods and bringing them to the packet forefront. One of the biggest promoters of TheNet X-1 nodes has been NEDA, and their efforts at educating the packet community on its use have been most helpful. In short, NEDA has done a lot in moving packet radio forward. If NEDA were not around, I suspect that it would be a more difficult to use new packet networking methods. Mostly because we would have a tough time finding the helpful information that NEDA brings us.

While things are better at NEDA, there is still a bit more to do. Which is the same situation that WAPR is in. While we exist, there is little activity that can be called "lively" in the organization. I feel that to Wisconsin packet operators, WAPR is just as important as NEDA is, perhaps more so. This is why the stagnation in WAPR is especially important to correct. WAPR does important work, coordinating packet operating frequencies, promoting standards, and encouraging network expansion. While our current state is not what most would consider lively and vibrant, this is not the "fault" of anyone. It is more a symptomatic of the stagnation in the packet community. So, what can be done?

While I would like to point to someone else as the solution to this problem, we all know that this is too convenient. To overcome the stagnation in packet radio, it will require effort from us. Which is what turned NEDA around.

This means not so much money, which helps, but time and commitment. The time to put on packet demonstrations, the time to talk to radio clubs, the commitment to regularly show others the things that packet radio can do. Have you had guests in your shack lately? Have you shown them your packet station? Does your club sponsor a packet node, or is it "packet-active" in some other way? If not, perhaps it's time for the club's general population to become educated about packet radio. Most clubs would love to have someone make a presentation at a club meeting. It helps to break up a routine by presenting something different. While you may not be a

powerful public speaker, most people can put on an effective demonstration without a great deal of trouble. And you may well get you another packet operator or two on the local scene.

And while you are at it, What about WAPR? We are entering a new membership year, and would love to see some renewed participation by packet operators. Not only membership, but dialogue, participating as an officer, and helping to add a new viewpoint to WAPR's board of directors. There's a membership form on this page to help get the ball rolling.

In conjunction with our new membership year, soon we will have our annual WAPR meeting. This meeting is where we elect officers and get our business for the year "squared away". As of this writing, I do not have the meeting date and details confirmed. However, we will be completing the arrangements soon and will send out flood messages through the BBS network as soon as the arrangements are complete. So do check your local BBS for that message.

And that is all the news I have for this month. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

Toward a Faster Packet Radio Network

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

There has been a lot of discussion lately about the future of packet radio, and a lot of the talk is not too nice to hear. Some say that packet radio has outlived its usefulness, and that it has been virtually replaced by the Internet. This is only partly true - only in user numbers has the Internet "replaced" packet radio. In some cases however, this is nowhere near true. Why? Because of the fact that packet is radio based, it offers some unique capabilities. Emergency Operating is one area that comes to mind.

While you do hear of a few high-profile cases where the internet was involved in emergency operations, it is more often than not a non-contributor in these situations. This is

simply because the telephone system is very vulnerable to failure when disaster strikes. In addition to the phone system, the internet itself is vulnerable in disaster scenarios. There are parts of the country where internet network linkages are not redundant and a disaster could close off access in spite of a working phone system.

Which makes packet radio a very useful and necessary thing. However, our current packet radio system is so slow that we are often not able to fully meet the demands of Emergency Management personnel. We can do plain ASCII text alright, but more complex information transfer is not practical. Even if we could send information faster, our system is non-standard.

While uniqueness can be an asset, in this case it is a liability. On the internet, you can send E-Mail with attachments. Not so in packet. File transfers are easy and possible on the internet. While file transfers are possible on packet radio, it is hardly easy in most cases. When all is said and done, we can't offer the flexibility and ease-of-use that the internet can offer. All of that can change, however. It is simply up to us to find out how to do it. In this article, I'll show you one way that it can come about.

From Speed Bump to Speed Jump

As was mentioned before, one of the most critical needs in the packet network is speed. Right now our data speeds seem to have hit the brakes at about 9600 bps. This is fine for local text messaging, but nowhere near fast enough to transfer big files, or go a long distance through a network. There is good reason for this speed bump - radios that can operate at higher speeds than this can't be bought "off the shelf". Existing commercial radios need to be modified to go faster than this, and seem to hit a limit of about 19.2 Kbps. Again, fast, but not fast enough. Any radio that can do faster than this has to be built from scratch, something that not everyone has the time and inclination to do.

So this means that often, even a good investment in money will not guarantee a fast packet connection. So we have to look at another way to do what we want to do. There is

traffic through the statewide network. Membership is annual, and runs from July.

WAPR membership is open to all amateurs who operate and are interested in Packet Radio. Your active membership in WAPR will not only help to maintain the Wisconsin Packet radio network, but help to develop it and manage its growth.

Please consider joining WAPR today. It is as easy as clipping out the enclosed form and mailing it, along with the appropriate dues, to Al at the address below.

Now is the time for WAPR!

As this new WAPR year begins, we ask that you consider adding to the packet community by joining Wisconsin's packet radio organization.

WAPR is your statewide organization devoted to the betterment of packet radio, on all levels. WAPR coordinates frequency usage for packet radio, networking standards, and helps to insure the free-flow of your packet mail and NTS.

WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Glenn, AA9MT: 920-684-7096

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For Information Contact:

ECARC

P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867

<http://www.ecarc.org>

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Voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC

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<http://www.thelorax.com/~ssschulze/hamfest.htm>

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX

(608) 643-6908/643-6453

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

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CONTACT:

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